



# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

251 Causeway Street • Boston, MA • (617) 626-4963

Volume 1, Number 1

Summer 2007

## NEEDED

### School Crossing Guards

The DCR is hiring school Crossing Guards to work part-time in selected areas throughout Boston and greater Boston. Please call Christine Kurker at 617-626-1421 for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Bureau's **Annual Meeting** will be held this year on **Wednesday, September 5th** at **Hopkinton State Park**. Stay tuned for more details.....

## WANTED!!

**Summer Seasonals** – We'd love to hear about your experiences as a Summer Ranger. Please send in brief articles to share in this newsletter. Send pictures, too!

## Summer Seasonal Ranger Program



Submitted by Ranger Keth Vicari, 3<sup>rd</sup> year seasonal Park Ranger, Harold Parker State Forest



Submitted by Ranger Stefan Berg, 1<sup>st</sup> year seasonal Park Ranger, Harold Parker State Forest.

Things are different here from Wompatuck State Park, where I first started. Working here at Harold Parker State Forest has been a great time; I have met a lot of interesting people from fishermen to mountain bikers and the weekend warrior that gets lost. It's always a great time here; the staff does a great job of enforcing the rules when a ranger isn't present to keeping the park/forest clean; also, the regional staff will go out of their way to help with any problems you may encounter along the way.

This is a quiet forest, not a lot of people know about this 4000 acre park in their own backyard. But little do people know there is a lot to be found here from great fishing spots and killer mountain bike trails to scenic views and an awesome fresh water swimming hole.

In all, this is a great place to work and play. I enjoy talking to the patrons and informing them of activities to do also hanging out with the staff. It has been an awesome summer so far. (Knock on wood) ☾

It's been interesting switching from recreation in urban parks to the Bureau of Ranger Services in State Parks. I used to spend my summers balancing the water at Dilboy pool, working with a full staff of 13 lifeguards, 2 laborers, and an assistant manager. I'd coordinate the facility's use with almost a dozen child day camps. As recreation's pool and rink seasons seem to get shorter and the facilities older the one thing that keeps growing is Harold Parker State Forest. It may be old but age is good here. As a former facility supervisor, I can still see the operations side, but what I now see is public education and protection. My days now are spent in uniform with the beacon of truth upon my head, an unmistakable tan campaign hat teaching the public all about the forest. I keep the peace between campers, give advice to fishermen and show good trails to mountain bikers, hikers and even folks horse back riding. The woods are very different from the concrete, and I am enjoying every moment of it. ☾

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## Just the Facts: DCR's Incident Reporting Program

*By Chris Williams, Deputy Chief Ranger*

**DCRinfo**, DCR's web-based incident reporting software program, has now moved into utilization by Division of Urban Parks personnel. Starting in the spring, Rangers, and this summer, the first of field staff have been trained by Ranger Services and authorized to access the program and report incidents.

**DCRinfo** provides a secure program, accessible from any Internet connected computer, to record both major and minor incidents. It is DCR's legal database for incident reports and also provides multiple summary report functions. Additionally, when major incident reports are started and saved, automatic e-mail notification goes out to managers, External Affairs, Legal, the Chief and Regional Rangers, and others.


Utilizing the summary reports function, reports can be generated on a wide variety of categories to support DCR operational needs, staffing issues, targeted patrols, and security concerns. For example, several months ago, DEP offered help with surveillance cameras to document illegal dumping. To determine where the worse problem areas were, a list was quickly compiled utilizing **DCRinfo**.

Reporting in the program is accomplished through the use of drop down lists and fill-in-the-blanks. Many of the items required in an incident report such as dates, times, locations, and incident types, are pre-loaded in the form and just require a 'click' to add to the report. The narrative is typed in but users are trained to type (the facts only) first in MS Word to organize and spell-check it before cutting and pasting it over to the **DCRinfo** form. The report

should be completed as thoroughly as possible.

Users of **DCRinfo** are reminded that:

- Major reports are required to be started and basic information 'SAVED' as soon as possible within 24 hours.
- minor reports are to be entered and 'SAVED' within 72 hours of the incident.
- There should be only 1 report per incident but it could have more than 1 author.
- There is only a 45 minute window to start and 'SAVE' the report before the program terminates without saving anything.
- Use of the 'enter' key and quotation marks will cause glitches to occur and you could loose any saved information.
- The narrative should only include FACTUAL information about what happened not already entered above, and NOT include opinions or post-incident repairs, follow-ups, etc.
- The report should be completed and 'FINALIZED' within a reasonable amount of time.
- The 'FINALIZED' copy is printed out, signed, and sent in, with any attachments, to the Regional Ranger for review and filing.
- DCR HelpDesk should be notified for any computer or software issues with **DCRinfo**.
- Ranger Services provides training and authorization for the program and assistance with report content questions.

DCR staffs are encouraged to make full use of this valuable program. For training or other information, please contact a Regional Ranger. 



## Ranger Training

*By Chris Williams*

The Bureau of Ranger Services is working towards providing the training necessary for Rangers to perform their duties. Several topics have been covered in the recent past with more planned for upcoming dates.

First aid and CPR training is continually being refreshed on an annual basis by Lieutenant Kevin Tucker and his team. *DCRinfo* training and authorization has been provided to all year-round and seasonal Rangers who need it for incident reporting. Newer State Park Rangers are completing their required 'Conservation Law Enforcement' and 'Reserve Intermittent Police' courses. Seasonal State Park Rangers

participated in their 2 week training in May and seasonal Urban Park Rangers from the mainland and islands completed a similar training in May and June.

In the SAR arena, many Rangers have completed their Search Technician certification with a few going on to 'Managing the Lost Person Incident' training. The Canine SAR Team never stops training and several dogs, both DCR and civilian, are fully qualified.

All Rangers are encouraged to attend training provided by HR in topic areas related to their job. A few took the 'Train the Trainer' classes over the winter and found many ways to

incorporate that training in recent Ranger training classes. Currently, plans are being discussed for future training. A multi-agency SAR search exercise has been scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. A SAR 'mantracking' class is also being planned for sometime in the next few months. Deputy Chief Ranger Chris Williams is in contact with the Mass. State Police Academy to set up an investigations class for November.

Over the winter, additional training will be discussed in the effort to work towards the Bureau's long range plans of having required training available to support the core competencies needed by every Ranger. ☞



*Deputy Chief Adam Parr, shown here, provides training in traffic control to seasonal Rangers during this year's State Park Ranger Academy*

Information on additional training can be found on NEPRA's website,

<http://www.yankeeranger.org/>

## Ahhhhh, The Field

*by Barbara Buls, Acting Deputy Chief, Interpretive Services*

August! That's impossible, it was just May, and we were hiring, training, gathering supplies and uniforms and looking forward to another season at DCR. Although this time warp happens every year, I'm never ready for it. Sitting in Kristin Karl's chair speeds the passage of time as well, as unfamiliar territory looms around every corner.

Kristin set the precedent of site visits to the regions, so when I walked through the doors of 251 Causeway I was determined to continue that practice. Thank goodness for precedents, for it is the field that keeps us all going.

**Western Region** was first, and farthest for those of us who live within site of the Atlantic. Marcia Champney, our new RIC took me first to DAR, where Victoria Loud gave us a super recycling art program, making pierced lanterns out of tin cans for the kids in the campground. A great conservation message within a fun craft program. Then we drove to Tolland where Geoff Coelho is starting out his first season with Nature Journaling for the kids in the campground. It was such a relief to be out in the mountains – we even saw a bear (my second in the state of Massachusetts!)

**Southeast Region** came next, and Regional Director Brian Shanahan joined RIC Amy Nelson and me for visits to Myles Standish Monument (Travis Roberts had us climb the monument – he does it 20 times a day), Pilgrim Memorial where I always learn something new (Megan Wheaton & Deborah Gustafson), Scusset Beach (Katherine Bellone has really fixed up the nature center), the Ernestina (for a look at the old lady), and Massasoit where Meredith Kellogg talked enthusiastically about the great kids that attend programs there.

**Central Region East** unfortunately fell on one of the hottest days we've had all season, but it was delightful on the top of Mt. Wachusett, where RIC Lois Breault-Melican and I visited veteran interpreter Jen Hart for a Summit Talk about the cultural heyday of the Summit Houses. We then went for a mile long stroll (hot!) along the Canal down at

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park with Kathryn Parent, so professional in her long pants and campaign hat! We concluded our day at Purgatory Chasm in the shade with Peter Newcomb, who enthusiastically relayed stories of the chasm, both past and present.

Everyone looked professional and contagiously enthusiastic. I still have Northeast and Central West to visit in two weeks, and although life seems too busy to spend this "down time," it is vitally important for both field personnel and past field work lovers, like myself. These are the visits that remind us why we are working for the agency and completing most of our tasks behind a computer screen or in meetings. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to once again walk on the wild side. ☺

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### COMING EVENT

The **Annual Ranger Paul Barnett Memorial Canoe Trip** will be held on Friday, Sept 7, 2007 at 10am. We will paddle on the Connecticut River from Elwell Recreation Area, at the intersection of Route 9 and Damon Rd. in Northampton, to the Oxbow boat ramp where a shuttle will be provided to return participants to their vehicles. Trip will last approximately four hours. Pre-registration is required. For further details and to pre-register contact RIC, Jennifer Schafer, 413-478-8299.



## “WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?”

*by Captain Jennifer Stowe*

What's got 12 legs, lot's of hair...and the energy to run up and down Mt. Greylock at least 5 or 6 times? Could it be a DCR Park Ranger? Yes.....well, sort of. Meet “Maggie”, “Emmitt” and “Scout”, they are three canines owned and handled by DCR Rangers. The Bureau of Ranger Services has actively participated in K-9 Search and Rescue for over 17 years. Currently these three dogs along with three other civilian dogs make up the DCR K-9 Search & Rescue team. These rangers train on a constant basis and are often called upon to provide assistance at searches throughout the state for DCR, MSP and local Law Enforcement agencies.



**K-9: “Scout”**

**Breed:** Blue Heeler Mix

**DOB:** August, 2005

**Favorite Toy:** Frisbee

**Handler:** Ranger Michelle  
O'Bannon

**Location:** Blue Hills  
Reservation



**K-9: “Emmitt Francis”**

**Breed:** Golden Retriever

**DOB:** June 3, 2003

**Favorite Toy:** Tug Rope

**Handler:** Ranger Jennifer  
Stowe

**Location:** Northeast Region



**K-9: “Maggie”**

**Breed:** Yellow Labrador  
Retriever

**DOB:** June 2000

**Favorite Toy:** Tennis balls  
w/tail

**Handler:** Chief Ranger Curt  
Rudge

**Location:** Statewide

“Scout” is in training to become a wilderness air scent search dog. Typical of her breed she is very smart and hard driving. She loves to play and learn new things. Scout was rescued from a shelter in Kentucky by the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter in Mansfield, CT. When Ranger O'Bannon met Scout she demonstrated the potential needed for her future job. She has had some basic obedience training as well as beginner agility which has prepared her for the challenges that lie ahead. She is currently field training with her other teammates and is doing remarkably well. ☸

“Emmitt Francis” was born in Upton, Ma. He was purchased by Ranger Stowe with the assistance of the Worcester County League of Sportsmen. He is a living memorial for long time sportsman Francis Wollaston. Emmitt is Level II Wilderness Air Scent certified. He has participated in several Search and Rescue operations in the state. Ranger Stowe and Emmitt spend numerous hours in various schools around the state, teaching students how to stay safe and not get lost in the woods. Emmitt loves his job as a search dog and park ambassador and looks forward to his days working on the job with Ranger Stowe. ☸

“Maggie” is a DCR certified air scent wilderness search dog who started her training at eight weeks old. She's a happy, sensitive pup who loves searching more than anything else. Maggie continues to maintain her wilderness certifications and is working toward certifications in cadaver and water recovery. ☸





## First Day Hikes

*By Captain Mike Nelson*

One of the most successful programs in Urban Parks is the First Day Hike, which is held both in the Blue Hills and at Breakheart Reservation. The program is one that can make the staff groan in anticipation, given that it requires a lot of work and management of large crowds on New Year's Day (when everyone is feeling a little tired after a late night). But it's also one that leaves staff and participants feeling good at the end of the day. A brisk hike gets the heart pumping and allows people to get off on the right foot for their New Year's Resolutions, which is one the reasons for the great turnout every year.

The first step is to get a commitment from staff, Friends Groups, volunteers, and other DCR partners. At Breakheart, the program is a collaborative effort by the Rangers, Park Staff, Friends of Breakheart, and neighboring Kelly's Roast Beef, who generously donates enough clam chowder to feed over 200 people every year. All agree on a starting time, and advertising begins a month or two in advance (newspapers, bulletin boards, brochure racks, local libraries, DCR website, word of mouth, etc.), and continues right through the end of December.

Then, on the day of the hike, we provide several hike leaders. This keeps the group sizes manageable, and allows us to offer hikes of varying length and difficulty. Inevitably, several hikers arrive late to the program, so we keep at least 1 hike leader at the Visitor Center to guide the late-comers. While the hikes are out, additional staff and volunteers start a fire and prepare the chowder and hot chocolate to warm up the returning hikers. It is a great, feel-good finish to the event, and provides an excellent opportunity to network, get to know the park visitors, and advertise upcoming programs & events - building on the momentum of our success. ☺



## M.I.R.T. Masters the Majors

*By Chris Williams*

At a recent Bureau meeting, a proposal for the creation of a **Major Incident Response Team (MIRT)** was introduced. A Ranger II or III from the team would report to the scene of a major incident to assist in the management of the incident; assist the collection of information; ensure that staff is debriefed and offered critical incident stress follow-up; complete any further investigation; and assist in writing the incident report.

At a major incident on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Hopkinton State Park, Regional Ranger Jennifer Stowe responded to the scene and, with the assistance of supervisory staff, interviewed the park staff involved in the incident. She also collected employee statements and other documents for inclusion in the incident report. Finally, she assisted with follow-ups such as arranging the critical incident stress debriefing the following day and the retrieval of the AED used in the incident for further documentation. Throughout her investigation, Capt. Stowe kept all pertinent supervisory and management personnel informed and up to date.

It is envisioned that future major incident response will follow this example. A working policy will soon be distributed. It will include training requirements, the **MIRT** callout process, and on-scene procedures. The end product will be a comprehensive dossier of information to supplement the major incident report. ☺

*Ranger Tom Bender is shown at the left speaking with some of the participants of this year's First Day Hike at the Blue Hills Reservation.*

## Pool Security

*By Chief Curt Rudge*

DCR park rangers are working closely with State Police, local police, Environmental Police and facility managers to improve safety and security at swimming pool facilities. As a result of a number of incidents at pools this summer, rangers have taken the lead in pulling together a list of security recommendations we hope will reduce the risks to employees and visitors in a sustainable fashion.

Long term solutions being examined for recommendation are:

- Entrance fees and an identification card program which would require pool attendees to either pre-register and be issued an ID card or be required to provide a photo ID in order to gain access to the pool.
- Improve perimeter fencing to deter unauthorized access to the pool area.

- Place security cameras and recorders strategically within the facilities to record activity both day and night to assist with identification of violators and assist with prosecution.
- Improve exterior lighting to deter unauthorized entry and illegal activity in both the pool and parking lot areas.
- Improve landscaping to reduce areas that hide would be violators from public view.

The bureau is actively pursuing the opportunity to host a Crime Prevention Officers School to train rangers to provide facility reviews such as the one currently underway at the Springfield Pool. Concepts such as "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" and "Broken Glass" are incorporated into a two week training session enabling graduates to apply crime prevention concepts to our facilities in a number of ways. Hopefully, there will be much more to come with regards to these security issues. *CR*



*Deputy Chief Adam Parr and the Statehouse Rangers are pictured here with Governor Deval Patrick, during State Employees Appreciation Day this past June.*



## Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge*

Welcome to the first publication of our Bureau News Letter, the "Ranger Dispatch." First and foremost it's a forum for all park rangers to share information and ideas. The intent is to connect rangers from the Berkshires to Boston Harbor Islands and from Division to Division. We hope to include news, training options, special events and activities from every corner of the bureau and look to all DCR rangers as potential contributors. Holly Bartlett, here in the Boston office, is our editor, publisher and designated haunt to secure articles and as such should be your first contact to contribute an article. I encourage you all to both read the newsletter and spread the word about the good work you are all doing as contributors.

In keeping with the theme, here are a few brief items the bureau is involved with or is working on. Most importantly, the Secretary's office has approved the appointment of Steve Ouellette as the new Park Ranger III for the Southeast Region. Please join me in congratulating Captain Ouellette on his new position and give him a hand if he calls for assistance. On another personnel note, Deputy Chief Kristin Karl-Carnahan just recently gave birth to a bouncing baby girl and as she is out on leave, Barbara Buls has stepped into her role and hasn't skipped a beat. We are also working to either join in or host a

Crime Prevention Officer's School this fall or winter. We strongly believe that upon completion of the school, DCR Park Rangers will be able to significantly contribute improvements to security at all DCR facilities. I am extremely pleased to note that Lieutenant Susan Survillo has taken the lead in advancing the Park Watch program in her district. Using Susan's model we are looking to be able to roll out the program on a statewide basis. And finally, we have entered the hurricane season for this year and park rangers are a key component of the department's emergency response plans from planning to communications and all sorts of emergency responses to situations as they arise.

In conclusion, the summer season is nearly over and I congratulate you all on the great job you have done. I would particularly like to point out the wonderful job our seasonal staff has done. Rangers and interpreters alike have worked hard to make sure visitors to DCR properties feel welcome, safe and receive an enjoyable learning experience wherever possible. On behalf everyone here in Boston, to all our seasonal staff I say thank you for all your efforts and hope we are able to welcome you back next year. ☞

## We want to hear from you!!

Comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

Bureau of Ranger Services, Suite 800  
Attn: Holly Bartlett  
251 Causeway St.  
Boston, MA 02114

[Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us](mailto:Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us)

**dcr**  
**Massachusetts**



*It's Your Nature*





# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

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Volume 1, Number 2

Fall 2007

## DCR Park Passport Strives to Get Children Outdoors

*By Lieutenant Jason Hunt, District Ranger for the Connecticut River Valley District, Central Region*

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DCR's Park Passport program is certainly not a new idea. The National Park system has been doing it for years. States like Virginia and Wisconsin, among a few others, also have a Park Passport. The idea is uniform in its intentions; get people out to the parks and hopefully introduce them to areas they may never have explored. We as a Bureau and an Agency strive to do the same, albeit through different means.

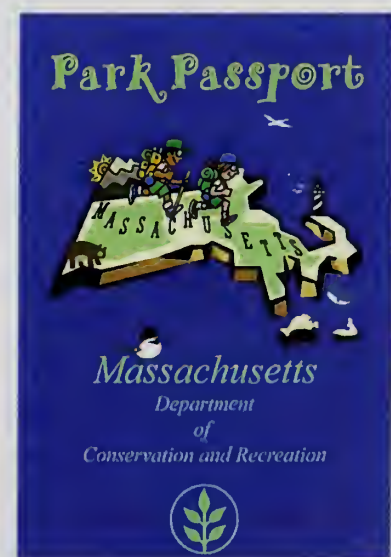
As computers, gaming systems and more and more television stations enter all our lives, people, and children in particular, are losing touch with the outdoors and all the *activities* involved therein. Childhood obesity is on the rise as is diabetes among our youth. The main, and obvious, reason for these health issues is the *inactivity* of children.

I was recently presenting a Library Pass Program at the Agawam Public Library and was speaking about the No Child Left Inside initiative. A teacher asked why we did not have a Passport program for DCR and added that she felt it would go a long way to connecting children with the outdoors. I told her it was an excellent idea and that I would mention it to some people. After hearing the enthusiasm from Director Priscilla Geigis and Deputy Chief Kristin Karl-Carnahan, I asked Ranger Peter Michaels and Lieutenant Kathryn Ward to join the team and move forward with

some ideas. Ranger Michaels jumped right in with his enthusiasm and his knowledge of graphic design. The look of the passport is the product of his imagination. Lieutenant Ward brought her usual vigor and began contributing ideas immediately. Together we set out to put the best product on the table. Six months later the project is in full swing with a possible release date of April 2008. It is truly something the Bureau of Ranger Services can be proud of!

The first idea is to have a passport book small enough to fit in a back pocket and kid-oriented. There will be pages with squares to be stamped for all staffed

*Continued on Page 2*



Conceptual Design By  
Ranger Peter Michaels

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## *Park Passport (continued)*

parks, as well as our Watersheds and Bureaus. Other pages include a passport identification page, modeled after the National Park Service's passport book, where children can write in their name, address, favorite parks and it will also include a spot for a picture, if they choose. An animal tracks page, what to bring when hiking page, a coupon to enter one State Park for free to get their passport rolling, plus several other pages, all with a kids theme will make our Passport unique.

The second idea is to create park-specific stamps that represent what each individual park has. For instance, on the left is a conceptual design of the Skinner State Park



stamp. These stamps will have a look that hopefully will entice children to want to get them and make them excited once they do!

The Passport Book will also include a pullout map in the back. The plan is to have this be the 'wish list' for kids to have at home. On it will be a map of Massachusetts and the location of all the Parks participating in the Passport program. However, it will not have the boundaries for state land, like DCR's brochure; instead the kids will be able to see what every stamp looks like because of the park location indicators modeled after the stamps. This will enable the kids to choose the next location they want to visit, perhaps by simply thinking the stamp is cool. The bonus with this is the addition of a color sticker when a kid gets his or her Passport stamped. This sticker can then be affixed to the map in the appropriate spot thereby providing a running tally of where

they have visited and where they have to go. In addition there will be a page of stickers in the Passport such as: "Home" to designate their hometown and several "favorite park" style stamps that they can put on the map.



The main idea is to make this fun for kids! We want them to be the catalyst to go outdoors, not the parents "forcing" the kids to get away from the computer and be active outdoors. As an incentive, we plan on offering prizes as a reward for attaining certain levels of passport completion. These may include a patch, t-shirt or perhaps a pin. We hope to have a grand prize for anyone able to complete the passport by acquiring all the stamps in the book. However, these items are still very much in the planning stages.

The Passport itself will be complete soon. Ranger Michaels has finished the third prototype and it is ready to be reviewed. Once a design and format is approved we will be on to the next steps.

Now for the burning question, what do we have to do as Rangers and DCR staff? The answer: get the word out!!! It will potentially be here before we know it and there is not a better way to advertise it than word-of-mouth, so talk it up. You will be asked to stamp the passport as there will be Bureau specific stamps and pages. Most important, though, is to ensure when children visit our facilities they have the time of their lives. I'm sure many of us have our fondest memories outside, make sure they have the same! ☺

## COMING EVENT

**Sunday, November 18  
1 pm – 3 pm**

## **Dog Sled Fun Run**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot on 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Meet a furry sled dog up close and personal! The **Yankee Siberian Husky Club** will present an educational exhibit on dog sledding in New England. Demonstrations with wheeled rigs, if weather permits. Bring cameras for a great photo opportunity.

(Demonstration only.  
No rides given.)



## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

**Wednesday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>  
10 – 11:30 AM**

## **Event Planning 101**

Please join Captains Maggi Brown and Mike Nelson as they take the time to share their learned expertise in planning/hosting a large public event. Both are veteran planners of the successful and popular First Day Hikes.

RSVP NLT Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

[Maggi.Brown@state.ma.us](mailto:Maggi.Brown@state.ma.us)



## Remembering Our Mission

by Barbara Buls, Acting Deputy Chief, Interpretive Services

Revisiting goals is a like establishing New Year's resolutions: a little intimidating, but well worth the visit; it keeps you on track. Revisiting a mission statement is necessary for truthful self-evaluation.



At DCR our mission is: ***To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources.*** Following the mission statement is this addendum: The health and happiness of people across Massachusetts depend on the accessibility and quality of our green infrastructure - our natural resources, recreational facilities, and great historic landscapes. The DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment.

So . . . are we accomplishing what we set out to achieve? It's a big responsibility to assume that the happiness of people is actually dependent on the efficacy of our agency. And their health? Wow, this is a tall order.

2007 was a landmark year for DCR as we undertook a new initiative known as *No Child Left Inside*. *No Child Left Inside* is a promise, a pledge...designed to help today's children reconnect with the great outdoors, while building the next generation of environmental stewards. The Bureau of Ranger Services was intrinsically involved in the planning, budgeting and implementation of this initiative which seeks to reconnect

families and children with the outdoors to combat growing social problems including childhood obesity, ADHD, and Nature Deficit Disorder. The largest segment of the program was known as the *Great Park Pursuit (GPP)*.

The GPP took place on six consecutive Saturdays from May 19 – June 23 and was held at the Blue Hills Reservation, Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Great Brook Farm State Park, Daughters of the American Revolution State Forest, Skinner State Park and Castle Island, in that order. Families pre-registered (at [www.greatparkpursuit.org](http://www.greatparkpursuit.org)), followed clues to discover the park of the week, and visited all these sites in urban and state parks regions. The winners enjoyed prizes highlighting outdoor activities designed to entice people away from their television and computer screens and out into nature again.

Activities included fishing, hiking, knot tying, camping, camp cooking, canoeing, hayrides, tree and bird identification, sailing, stewardship and kids' games to mention a few. All are activities that have declined in popularity as a result of technical domination over kids, the search for "safe" entertainment, fear of the outdoors, fear of strangers, lack of knowledge, all elements that are increasingly exiling our children to the indoors with electronic babysitters.

So . . . did we accomplish what we set out to achieve? Over 500 families registered for the events, traded photos and stories on the web page, and got to know each other in the spirit of cooperation and good fun competition. Kids learned a lot of cool, new outdoor stuff, supervised by a qualified staff that cares about the visitor, and loves to have fun. DCR employees worked tirelessly and willingly on those days to bring this program to the participants.

So . . . did we accomplish what we set out to achieve? Judging from the faces of the participants, we did. There they were, every week, smiles ear to ear, going from station to station at each park, putting their best effort into each activity. They came to the last day at Castle Island and took the quiz about all the parks in the GPP. Quiz results showed that most had learned about each and every park and its resources.



The end of the Great Park Pursuit was both gratifying and sad. It was necessary to provide further park opportunities for these families who had trooped all over Massachusetts. So the fall portion of the initiative was born.

Wachusett Mountain, the ski hill that leases DCR property, was the stage for the Kids Fest. Invitations were sent to the participants of the 2007 event. The first day of the Fest, September 22, over 50 families from the GPP showed up to participate in our events, as well as the mountain's activities. It was gratifying to know that all these people were still interested and following DCR's initiative to get kids outside.

We look forward to the winter fest, which is planned for the middle of February at a location to be determined. There will be more outdoor activities including tracking, skiing, ice fishing, dog sled demonstrations, snow men, UA demos and much more! Come and join us as we still strive to bring more and more people to our mission and the great outdoors with the message . . . *It's Your Nature!* ☪

## Parking Ticket Enforcement Program

By Kathy DeLucca, Parking Ticket Program Coordinator

The Office of the Parking Clerk is managed by the DCR's Bureau of Ranger Services. Parking regulations are strictly enforced throughout the DCR Urban and State Park Reservations and roadways. The purpose of this program is to ensure public safety, provide resource protection and to make available accessible parking for patrons of the Massachusetts State Park system.

DCR Park Rangers, Environmental Police, Mass. State Police and municipalities have the authority to issue DCR parking tickets throughout the state on DCR properties and roadways.

These tickets are processed in the Boston office at 251 Causeway Street. Payment of these tickets must be made within 21 days of issuance. Failure to pay this fine may result in additional penalties including the non-renewal of the registered owner's driver's license and vehicle registration.

Payment mailing address is:

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Office of the Parking Clerk  
251 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Checks are made payable to: Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Please reference violation number and/or license plate number on the check. Cash is accepted if paying in person, exact change only. No

online or credit card payments are accepted.

Hearing requests must be made, in writing to the above address, by the registered owner of the vehicle, within 21 days of the issuance of the parking violation. All hearings are held at this same address.

Office of the Parking Clerk's hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) 8:00AM – 4:00PM.

Any questions concerning the parking ticket program should be addressed to Kathy DeLucca or Dot Hall, at 617-626-1419, or FAX at 617-626-1472, or go to [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). ☞

## DCR Crossing Guard Program

By Christine Kurker, Crossing Guard Supervisor

The Bureau's Crossing Guard Program, within the Urban Parks, places Crossing Guards along our roadways to ensure safe passageway for school-aged pedestrians. Currently the program has 40 Crossing Guards covering 26 different locations throughout school zones in Boston and Greater-Boston. The DCR has crossings as far South as Quincy and as far North as Melrose.

All Crossing Guards new to the program recently participated in a 4-hour training course conducted by the Massachusetts State Police. Some topics included how to deal with angry drivers, drivers who do not stop at red lights, and drivers who speed. Also discussed was how to communicate with students who do not want you to cross them or those who do not use the crosswalk. The proper techniques of traffic control were also demonstrated and practiced.

On average, Crossing Guards work approximately 10 hours per week, have holidays and school vacations off, and do not work over the summer months. For more information on our program, please call 617-626-1421. ☞



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## **UNIFORM & UNIFORM ACCESSORIES DISTRIBUTION**

To improve the Bureau of Ranger Services ability to provide all Rangers, full time and seasonal, with any uniforms and accessories needed please adhere to the following request. Regional Captains must submit to the Bureau by January 31, 2008 an inventory of what their region has stored on-hand, so the Bureau can order the appropriate amount of uniforms and accessories needed for the year. With the Regional Captains replying to this request, the Bureau will be able to provide uniforms and accessories more efficiently to the regions and can better prepare for the hiring of the Seasonal Rangers for the summer season.

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## **OHV Patrol & Training Weekend**

*By Captain Robert Rando, Western Region*

OHV (off-highway vehicle) Patrol and Training Weekend for State Park Rangers took place in October at October Mountain and Pittsfield State Forests, consisting of three days of bone-rattling and mud-flying memory work, including even getting caught in a unexpected downpour! Attending the training were Capt. Steve Ouellette, Lt. Kathy Ward, Capt. Jennifer Stowe and Capt. Robert Rando, who hosted the training. The first day was spent reviewing CMRs, Chapters 90 and 90B, and citation writing. Later in the day an obstacle course was set up to practice riding skills and to get used to handling the ATVs which they would be riding the next day while on patrol. On Saturday, public ATV use was light, but riding on the trails at October Mountain State Forest was a challenge for the Rangers. That same day, Capt. Ouellette and Capt. Rando went to Pittsfield State Forest to do some ATV patrol there. Check points were set up on the Skyline Trail and at Balance Rock State Park. A total of 30 ATVs were checked, registrations and other requirements were inspected for violations, and one citation was issued. The day was a picture perfect



*Pictured from the left are Capt. Steve Ouellette, Capt. Jennifer Stowe, Lt. Kathy Ward and Capt. Robert Rando*

autumn afternoon with hikers, leaf peepers and ATVers, out in full force enjoying the weekend. Another training weekend is being planned for the spring, more information will follow. ☪

## Project Learning Tree

*By Gini Traub, Visitor Services Supervisor*

Project Learning Tree – PLT for short – is best known as a book full of environmental education activities for young people. It is that and much more.

PLT's curriculum and supporting materials are award winning and nationally recognized. In addition to its better-known *Activity Guide*, written for pre-kindergarten through grade 8 students, PLT has modules for high school and adult learners, an *Energy and Society* kit and other helpful materials.

PLT's ultimate goal is to help young people become environmentally-literate thinkers and responsible decision makers. To that end, PLT's international network of teachers, environmental educators and forestry professionals has researched, written and field tested "hands-on minds-on" curriculum and activities. These activities are designed to raise awareness, provide information and promote environmental stewardship.

PLT reaches formal and informal educators through professional-development workshops led by trained facilitators. The educators, in turn, use activities with their students, campers, scouts and youth groups.

For 30 years, PLT has been taking kids outside to learn. Many of its activities foster exploring and feeling comfortable in the natural world – a perfect fit with DCR's *No Child Left Inside* initiative. PLT's focus on trees, forests and forest ecology and its emphasis on stewardship make DCR the natural partner for state sponsorship.

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Deputy Chief of Ranger Services, is the coordinator for Project Learning Tree in Massachusetts. Would you like to attend a PLT workshop to discover how PLT helps students learn from nature? Do you know of any teachers who might be interested? Please don't hesitate to contact Kristin or her environmental education staff. We'd love to hear from you! ☞



## Mock Search Yields Good Practice and Lessons Learned

*By Chris Williams, Deputy Bureau Chief*

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau of Ranger Services staged a multi-agency search exercise hosted by Willard Brook State Forest. Held to fulfill the annual requirement for DCR SAR Teams, the training day also provided an opportunity for practicing and testing interoperability between DCR and several partner agencies and groups.

The exercise was organized by a team of SAR managers from Ranger Services, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Environmental Police to closely resemble a real lost person incident. Other participating groups included several local police and fire departments, the DCR canine team, and a few civilian SAR teams.

While the challenges that appear in a real search incident also found their way into the exercise, the mixed teams responded as they were trained. Their day was termed a success as three of the four 'victims' searched for were found in the time allocated. The terrain of the search area provided a good test of the interoperability between the various agencies only in the technological realm. In spite of good 'patches' between the variety of radio systems, there were still areas in the Forest where no radios found signals. On the plus side, navigation via GPS proved excellent, allowing the Command Post to track not only the areas that were covered by the search teams but also the specific tracks taken by the SAR canines.

Overall, the mock search provided a valuable experience for DCR's teams and partners and also pointed Ranger Services to areas where we can increase the effectiveness of our delivery of this public safety function. ☞

\*\*\*\*\*

### Project Learning Tree Contacts

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Deputy Chief,  
[Kristin.Karl-Carnahan@state.ma.us](mailto:Kristin.Karl-Carnahan@state.ma.us) (617) 626-1463  
Tim Rayworth, Northeast Regional EE Coordinator,  
[Tim.Rayworth@state.ma.us](mailto:Tim.Rayworth@state.ma.us) (508) 369-7834  
Gini Traub, Central West Regional EE Coordinator,  
[Gini.Traub@state.ma.us](mailto:Gini.Traub@state.ma.us) (415) 584-6788



## Canal IllumiNations! Lights up Lawrence

*By Jim Beauchesne, Visitor Services Supervisor*

Young ballet dancers and opera singers, seniors singing Italian songs, and lanterns lighting the canal at dusk were all part of the second annual Canal IllumiNations! at Lawrence Heritage State Park on Sunday, October 14, 2007. The event was the finale of Live Lawrence!, a series of cultural events funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Adams Grant program for cultural economic development.

Lawrence Heritage State Park partners with several other Lawrence organizations to organize the Live Lawrence! events, now ending their second year. Visitor Services Supervisor Jim Beauchesne works with the other partners, including most of the major cultural organizations in Lawrence. The Park also hosted this year's first event, a blues concert in July in the beautiful Visitor Center Park.

Canal IllumiNations! included performances on a stage just outside the Visitor Center, by the Italian Serenaders, the New England Civic Ballet, and the Young Opera Company. Youth in several Lawrence schools had created lanterns in the weeks leading up to the event, and more were made on the spot that day. As dusk approached, lanterns were placed along the North Canal, and some in the Canal itself, creating a scene of somewhat eerie beauty. This year's event was attended by 200 or more people and was considered a success and a stepping stone to a bigger and better event next year. ☞



## Walden Watermelon Party

*By: Michael W. Mitchell, Visitor Services Supervisor*

Walden Pond State Reservation Park Interpreters Danielle Priddy and Christopher O' Neill held the annual end of Summer Watermelon Party this past Labor Day weekend. The program featured Henry David Thoreau portrayed by living historian Richard Smith and tasty watermelons served by Park Interpreters Priddy and O' Neill. Over 350 park visitors participated, making the Watermelon Party one of our most successful programs of the season.

Many visitors who participated in the program are visitors that come to the Watermelon Party every year to celebrate the unofficial end of summer. Park Interpreters Priddy and O' Neill shared stories with visitors and answered their many questions while the visitors enjoyed tasty watermelons on a hot late summer day. Many first time participants of all ages also attended this year. It is always fun to watch visitors' facial expressions as they approach the Thoreau house replica only to be greeted by two friendly Park Interpreters offering free watermelon. Visitors are then taken back in time to 1846 when they enter the Thoreau house replica to visit with and discuss the issues of the day with Henry David Thoreau.

Thoreau was known throughout Concord for the juicy watermelons that he grew in the summer months during his two year, two month, two day stay at Walden Pond. Thoreau once said "In the dog days we come near to sustaining our lives on watermelon juice alone, like those who have fevers. I know of no more agreeable and nutritious food at this season than bread and butter and melons, and you need not be afraid of eating too much of the latter." (Wild Fruits) I think it's fair to say that those who participated in this year's Watermelon Party would wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Thoreau. This year watermelons were donated by local supermarkets Donelan's Marketplace and Crosby's Market. ☞



## Parks As Classroom

*By Gini Traub, Visitor Services Supervisor*

Many people vividly – and fondly – recall field trips from their years as students. DCR's Parks As Classroom (PAC) program appreciates this and recognizes our state's reservations, forests, and parks as ideal living laboratories for student learning. It is the reason Ranger Services Environmental Educational Initiatives created Parks As Classroom field trips.

Each PAC field trip addresses a specific cultural or natural feature or resource management practice. Some PAC field trips are about a unique or exceptional property. For example, Skinner State Park's historic Summit House gives a glimpse into 1800's travel, tourism, technology and entrepreneurship. Some PAC modules are more general – such as animal adaptations in wetlands - topics that kids find interesting and fun and teachers know are relevant to their curriculum.

We've built on the basic field trip concept by providing the extra resources and support that teachers need as they face tight schedules and an ever-increasing emphasis on meeting curriculum standards. Each PAC field trip is written up into modules that we can send to teachers. The modules include pre-site visit activities to prepare students for the field trip, along with background information, correlations with state curriculum standards, post-visit activities, assessment suggestions and a bibliography.

For example, our *Wonderful Wetlands* PAC's pre-visit preparation has students becoming critters in an aquatic environment and experiencing how water quality affects their lives. At the park, students explore pond life to discover "it's a jungle out there" and to see for themselves the many adaptations that allow for life in a pond. And after the field trip, they invent an aquatic animal and explain how it is well-adapted to its habitat.

By their very nature, our PAC curriculum support DCR's *No Child Left Inside* initiative. PAC is the essence of place-based learning, which improves student performance and can help build community. We make it easy for teachers and engaging for students. Who knew school could be so much fun?

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Deputy Chief of Ranger Services, and her Regional Environmental Education Coordinators, are continually developing Parks As Classroom modules. ☺

### PAC Modules Available

*Then and Now at the Mt. Holyoke Summit House* - at Skinner State Park

*This Valley Rocks: Geological History and Landforms of the Connecticut River Valley and Surrounding Hilltowns* - at Mt. Tom State Reservation, Skinner State Park, and Mount Holyoke Range State Park

*Beaver Adaptations and Habitats* - at many parks

*Wonderful Wetlands: Macroinvertebrate Adaptations* - at many parks

*Between New England Tides* - at Sandy Point State Reservation

*The Landscape of Mandslay* - at Maudslay State Park

*The Rise and Fall of a Canal* - at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

*Beyond the Bovine* - at Great Brook Farm State Park

*Henry David Thoreau: The Making of a Naturalist* - at Walden

*The Human Face of Industrialization* - at Holyoke Heritage State Park

**NEPRA**   
**NEW ENGLAND PARK RANGER ASSOCIATION**

**2007 Annual NEPRA  
Conference  
Thursday, Nov 29, 2007  
At the Doyle Conservation  
Center  
Leominster, MA**

For more information, go to NEPRA's  
website at  
[www.yankeeranger.org](http://www.yankeeranger.org)



## Autumn News from Waquoit Bay

*By Nancy Church, Interpretive Services and Volunteer Coordinator*

Although boats are disappearing from their moorings and summer visitors have left the Cape, the Waquoit Bay Reserve continues to reach out to a variety of audiences through educational programs and partnerships. This fall, K-12/Teacher Training Coordinator, Pat Harcourt teamed up with Falmouth Public Schools to present classes and field trips relating to ground water and watersheds for students and completed a professional development workshop for teachers focusing on Global Warming and Climate Change. Continuing a long standing partnership, Pat also helped to train a new group of Americorp Cape Cod volunteers, which included an all day, interactive Water Festival. Americorp member Jamie McLaren was welcomed to the Reserve as this year's education volunteer.

As one of twenty-six National Estuarine Research Reserves around the country, WBNERR participated in National Estuaries Day by hosting a program for the Falmouth Newcomers Club and other members of the general public. The 25 attendees joined Nancy Church in experimenting with watershed models as well as collecting data and live specimens from the bay using a variety of scientific tools. The stewardship intern, Andrew Tweel, led an interpretive program associated with Cape Cod Pathways Weekend. The theme of his program was restoration of the salt marsh at South Cape Beach State Park. Visitors left with a better understanding of the value of salt marshes and the anticipated results from the project.

In another cooperative effort, Waquoit Bay staff Laurie Tompkins and Tonna-Marie Surgeon-Rogers, teamed up with staff from the NOAA Coastal Services Center to facilitate multi-day workshops in Hyannis and Danvers titled, "*Navigating Rough Seas: Public Issues and Conflict Management*". The targeted audience of federal, state and local coastal managers, selectmen and town administrators learned skills to help resolve coastal and marine related issues and facilitate decision making in public forums.

Trail visitors were pleased with the new parking area and interpretive kiosk erected at the Quashnet River area of the Reserve. The new signage celebrates the cultural history of the area as well as the natural resources. Many of the volunteers and non-profit groups which were instrumental to the development and installation of the kiosk joined in the ribbon cutting event held on September 11<sup>th</sup>. ☺



*Pictured are Waquoit Bay Reserve Manager Brendan Annett, State Representative Matt Patrick and Commissioner of Fish and Game Mary Griffin.*



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## Harbor Island Trivia

By Bill Stokinger, Cultural Resource Specialist

### Spectacle Island

Modern accounts of Boston Harbor history usually regale tales of casinos and brothels operating on Spectacle Island, all culminating in a police raid on the island. Newspapers from 1856 tell differing stories, reinforcing that you can't always believe everything you read.

**Version 1:** "*Gamblers Arrested.*- A decent was made yesterday afternoon by the harbor police and officers of the second station upon a party of gamblers, twenty-seven in number, who had been engaged in the various methods of gambling upon Spectacle Island. They were brought to this city."

**Version 2:** "*The Gamblers.* The twenty-seven individuals who were arrested for gambling on a pleasure boat in the harbor yesterday, were before the Police Court to day, and nearly all were fined \$10 each and a moiety of the costs... The two principals in the arrangement, John Agin and Isaac Hayden, were held in \$500 each for examination to-morrow, on the charge of having gambling implements in their possession."

**Version 3:** "*Arrest of Gamblers.*- For a long time parties of men and boys have been in the habit of going down the harbor to Spectacle Island on the Sabbath for gambling purposes. Yesterday, as usual, a party of thirty or more started down in the yacht Young America, accompanied, unbeknown to themselves by two members of the Harbor Police, who 'took notes' of their proceedings. On their return to the wharf in the city they were met by the Harbor Police and eight officers of the second station, who arrested twenty-five of the party, several escaping by jumping upon vessels near the wharf...A roulette table, belonging to John Agin, and a lot of cards, props and dice were also taken possession of. The prisoners, followed by a crowd of sympathizing friends, were taken to the Harbor Police Station and locked up.

Whether the lads ever got off the boat and onto the island remains to be seen, but for the 21<sup>st</sup> century's popular press, why let facts ruin a good story! ☞

## BRS Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Bureau of Ranger Services was held in September at Hopkinton State Park. Chief Rudge opened the meeting with an overview of the past year, acknowledging the three divisions within the Bureau, and the accomplishments and progress they've achieved throughout the year. Following his comments, Chief Rudge turned the floor over to the Deputy Chiefs, Chris Williams, Adam Parr and Barbara Buls, who each took a few moments to re-cap the year from the perspective of their respective divisions. Deputy Director of State Parks Ken Foley shared some thoughts and encouragement from an agency standpoint, and answered questions.

Before adjourning for a cookout, the following individuals were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the past year:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Jenn Stowe</b>        | Paul Barnett Award recipient for excellence in the art and science of the Ranger profession |
| <b>Peter Michaels</b>    | Seasonal Ranger of the Year – State Parks   |
| <b>Charles Leach</b>     | Seasonal Ranger of the Year – Urban Parks   |
| <b>Kristen Lamb</b>      | Interpretive Team Award   |
| <b>John Ratti</b>        | Innovation in Interpretation Award  |
| <b>Matthew Meehan</b>    | Excellence in Interpretation Award  |
| <b>Donna Sudak</b>       | Outstanding Professional in Service Award   |
| <b>Katherine Bellone</b> | Outstanding New Interpreter Award   |





## State House Detachment

*By Sean P. Dowd, State House Ranger*


Summer might be winding down for much of the DCR family but things are just heating up here under the golden dome. The Legislature is back in formal session, keeping DCR Rangers as busy as ever. Rangers, who provide 24 hour security for the State House and maintain a dispatch center for the Urban Parks system, provide security screening for thousands of visitors per day. State House Rangers also accommodate visiting dignitaries, private functions, a constant list of legislative hearings, and even the occasional historic political milestone. Rangers also have the duty of enforcing parking regulations, direct motor vehicle traffic and provide for flow of pedestrians in and around the State House. Events span a wide range from the somber to the exhilarating often drawing an equally wide range of emotions among attendees. The State House Ranger staff is tasked with maintaining order in spite of these challenges while remaining professionals.

Recent State House events of note include the Fallen Firefighters memorial dedication which took place on September 11th of this year. The bronze statue depicts three firefighters in the performance of their duties while fire laps at their feet. It

occupies a prominent space in Ashburton Park directly across from the Law Enforcement Memorial.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> the State House hosted the George L. Hannah Awards, a law enforcement medal given for bravery in the line of duty. This ceremony was a somber event attended by Governor Deval Patrick and many other distinguished guests. This award is named for Trooper George L Hannah who was killed in the line of duty in 1983.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> things really heated up during a visit from Boston Red Sox catchers Jason Varitek and Doug Mirabelli. The players attended an event on the front steps in honor of their recent World Series sweep of the Colorado Rockies.


The State House is currently being used as part of the set for a major motion picture starring Steve Martin, to be released some time next year. Formal legislative sessions will undoubtedly bring organized protests and rallies, in the foreseeable future, as the House and Senate debate important issues like casino gambling, sub prime loan foreclosures and mental health, to name a few. 

## Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

It's hard to believe that once again we've just about put the wraps on another summer recreation season. For me it seems that the more we get involved in, the faster the summer passes. Special events always seem to catch most of our attention and in major part thanks to everyone in Ranger Services these events give the Department an opportunity to put it's best foot forward. The Great Parks Pursuit, Constitutional Convention at the State House, Fourth of July and Head of the Charles Regatta are just a few of the enormous operations Bureau Staff made major contributions to and everyone participated in at one time or another. To each and every bureau member I congratulate you and thank you for your professionalism and dedication.

To me, however, as much as the public adores these special events, I prefer to believe that it's the patrols, interpretive programs, recreational programs, and other ranger services that take place every day that are truly the core of our mission. Whether it's a ranger on patrol at the state house or an interpreter in a small visitor's center, we constantly provide services to the public. I take great

pride knowing that we send staff to the field every day that are trained and prepared to save lives by administering emergency first aid, searching for a lost person or even delivering a baby with bad timing! And the strength and backbone to all ranger services is training.

As the temperatures plunge and we move more deeply into fall, training opportunities will begin to expand. A key responsibility of the bureau will be to make sure that relevant and quality training opportunities are available for all bureau members to maintain existing skills or expand into new areas. First Aid and Incident Command classes have already been scheduled for everyone to maintain those certifications. The list of other upcoming opportunities is too long to list here, but I encourage you all to take advantage of every opportunity you can. Training is perishable; please take every chance you can to refresh. We'll make sure that each of you is made aware of every class that is offered and I look forward to seeing you at as many as I can get to. 



## We want to hear from you!!

Comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

Bureau of Ranger Services, Suite 800  
Attn: Holly Bartlett  
251 Causeway St.  
Boston, MA 02114

Or e-mail at:

[Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us](mailto:Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us)

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# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

251 Causeway Street • Boston, MA • (617) 626-4963

Volume 2, Number 1

Winter 2008

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## No Child Left Inside & The Great Park Pursuit: *Reconnecting Families with Nature*



### What is *No Child Left Inside*?

It's a promise, a pledge designed to help today's children reconnect with the great outdoors, while building the next generation of environmental stewards. *The Great Park Pursuit* is part of the "No Child Left Inside" initiative, designed to encourage Massachusetts families and visitors to enjoy all the recreational resources and outdoor activities that the Massachusetts state parks system has to offer!

From health and fitness, to learning and fun, to creating great family memories – the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation wants to introduce residents and visitors to the more than 400 special places across the state to be discovered, treasured and shared.

The Great Park Pursuit is a team-based adventure activity. Participating teams are challenged to visit different state forests and parks over a six-week period as part of a fun family adventure. Teams will get clues weekly to where the next

event will be held. At the events park rangers will help them participate in outdoor recreation challenges as well as enjoy skill-building and nature-based learning activities.

The first event will take place on Saturday, May 10th at Borderland State Park. Each week is filled with new outdoor adventures to discover and enjoy. Teams will hike along forested trails, learn to fish, pitch a tent and roast s'mores, discover secrets of the coast, and even ride in a horse drawn wagon! Teams will compete for the grand prize packages.

The DCR is gearing up for this year's event, and we look forward to reuniting with teams from last year's event, as well as meeting new teams, as we all explore our state forests and parks on this great family adventure!

Registration will begin in mid-April. ☞



Register to play at  
[www.greatparkpursuit.org](http://www.greatparkpursuit.org)

## First Day Festivities Festoon State and Urban Parks

*Barbara Buls, Acting Deputy Chief, Bureau of Ranger Services, Interpretive Services*

What a year 2007 was for the *No Child Left Inside* initiative in our parks! We started off with a bang, hosting the Great Park Pursuit (GPP) in May and June, moved onto the Wachusett Kid's Fest in September, and for the winter, began the New Year in full force with First Day Hikes.

Historically an Urban Parks tradition, we decided to expand this successful program by instituting First Day Hikes in State Parks. These hikes have long been very popular in the Blue Hills and Breakheart Reservation, and became a great experiment for parks outside of Rt. 128. State Parks Hikes were held in the following locations:

### Southeast Region

Waquoit Bay National  
Estuarine Research Reserve  
Ellisville Harbor State Park  
Massasoit State Park

### Northeast Region

Walden Pond State Reservation  
Halibut Point State Park

### Central Region

Blackstone River and Canal  
Heritage State Park  
Moore State Park  
Dunn State Park

### Western Region

DAR State Forest  
Kenneth Dubuque Memorial  
State Forest

The weather cooperated by sending us various conditions; pouring rain at Halibut Point, crunchy snow underfoot at Walden Pond, and fluffy New Year's snow in many of the locations – the hike at Dubuque was actually a snow shoe trip! The photos below show the beauty that winter creates in our forests.

Staff was very cooperative in creating avenues to provide this programming, and themes of hikes rounded out the experience – seal viewing in Ellisville Harbor, cardiac health and the value of winter exercise at Moore, landscape use and forest regrowth history at Dubuque, not to mention

the life and teachings of our native son, Henry David Thoreau, at Walden Pond.

Hot chocolate was distributed by the Bureau, and supplemented by other delectables such as roasted chestnuts and chestnut/pumpkin soup to emphasize "healthy eating" to our park visitors.

State-wide, over 1200 visitors attended the First Day Hikes, with the Blue Hills at 700 attendees, Breakheart with 80, and a State Parks total attendance of over 470. GPP 2007 participants were notified and many joined in the fun of winter programming.

As we go deep into the winter months, we can look forward to the Great Park Pursuit 2008 which will feature the Civilian Conservation Corps 75th Anniversary. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to continue using our beautiful properties even in the throes of winter. Happy New Year! ☺





## A Snowy Start to the New Year

*By Lieutenant Kathryn Ward, Quabbin Highlands District*

On January 1<sup>st</sup> the forecast for the 'Snow Belt' called for heavy snow with snow accumulating in Gardner at over an inch per hour. At 11:00 am the snow began and Bill Schold, Bill Adams, Sue Sienkiewicz and I were already preparing for our First Day Hikers to arrive. Sue started and stoked a welcoming fire in the large stone fireplace in the Pond House while Bill and Bill worked to keep up with clearing the snow from the walkways. Tips on getting healthy and being 'green' awaited the guests along with hot chocolate. Soon people were shaking off the snow and stamping their boots entering the Pond House to meet up with the other like-minded first-dayers.

At 12:00 sharp, the group gathered on the front steps for a welcome, an overview of the day's event, and a group picture. Forty-one people were on the pond loop hike including such notables as Director Priscilla Geigis, District Manager Evelyn Jimenez, a volunteer from AMC Cees Vaneijk, as well as a family that attended all of last year's Great Park Pursuit events, and my little black Labrador, Lady. Hikers followed the large orange coat and snowshoe footprints of the ranger through the falling snow. Along the 1.5 mile route we stopped a few times and talked about recreation at Dunn Pond, the No Child Left Inside initiative, the Great Park Pursuit, and



New Year's resolutions. Kids said they felt like they were in the movie Narnia and a few pulled tree boughs full of snow to 'snow' their friends or the ranger. Sue guided a small group on a shortcut back early, but the majority trekked the entire 1.5 hours.

Upon their return, the staff greeted and congratulated all of the hikers and



handed out the "I hiked in a state park on New Year's Day" stickers. The group sat by the fire enjoying hot chocolate and had conversation about what they saw on the trail. Kids examined the route they hiked on the big map and showed their parents how far they went. Some folks wrote on a big board what their New Year's resolutions were or what they are doing to be 'green'.

By 2:00 pm the ice rink had a blanket of snow and the hikers' tracks were quickly disappearing. Many thanks were offered for a great event and the group parted with a renewed spirit of getting outdoors more often in the New Year. ☺

### SEASONAL HIRING

The flyers are now available for distribution wherever good candidates can be found.

They cover openings for State & Urban Rangers, Boston Harbor Island Rangers, a supervisory Ranger II for the Islands, BHI Ranger Kayaker and State Park Interpreter.

Please go to the link below to view and print out the flyers.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/interp/interp.htm#job>

## MAPLE SUGARING EVENTS

March is maple sugaring time in New England, and plans are underway for this year's maple sugaring programs in the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) state and urban parks. The following locations accept and encourage reservations for organized educational and nonprofit groups beginning this month. No reservations are necessary for individuals or families who want to attend DCR's maple sugaring events.

- **Maple Sugar Days.**

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton offers group tours of maple sugaring techniques from Brookwood Farm in the Blue Hills Reservation from mid-February through March. Learn the process of turning sap to sugar, see a real evaporator, and sample a traditional maple syrup snack. Contact the Blue Hills Trailside Museum (617-333-0690) for further information and to make reservations. Also, the public is invited to attend Maple Sugar Days on March 8 & 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12.

- **Breakheart Reservation in Saugus** offers free programs for schools and nonprofit groups Monday-Friday, March 10-March 14. Tours include tree

identification, tappings, history of maple sugaring, wood harvesting, sap boiling, and sampling of real maple syrup on pancakes and popcorn. These activities are open to the public on March 15 & 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., suggested donation is \$5 per person (or \$4 if you bring a canned good for contribution to a local food bank!). Pre-registration for school groups and non-profits is required and can be arranged by phone (781-438-1388) Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- **Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge** offers maple sugaring demonstrations and lessons in how to make your own maple syrup at home, hosted by the Blackstone Valley Sugaring Association. Visitors can watch syrup being made, sample maple products, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the park's sugar house. Limited group tours will be offered during the first three weekends in March (March 1 & 2, March 8 & 9, and March 15 & 16) beginning at 9 a.m. Contact the Blackstone Valley Sugaring Association (508-278-5274) or [www.blackstonevalleysugaring.org](http://www.blackstonevalleysugaring.org)

- **D.A.R. State Forest in Goshen** will arrange maple

sugaring tours at the Krug Sugarbush for school groups, beginning the second week in March. Groups can schedule tours in either the morning (after 10 a.m.) or afternoon, but should contact D.A.R. no earlier than a week in advance to allow for the best prediction of weather and sugaring conditions. Call 413-268-7098.

For more information on these and other events, please visit DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/events.htm>



*Captain Maggi Brown demonstrates maple sugaring to a young visitor at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton.*



## Rangers Ride Again

We are excited to announce that this year we will be bringing back the mounted unit to DCR! For those of you who weren't aware, both the MDC and DEM had mounted units in years past that were phased out due to budget shortfalls; but thanks to legislative support they will return this spring.

DCR will be purchasing up to three horses this spring along with a truck and 2 trailers. The horses will be boarded at a nearby stable in the Blue Hills and patrols will emanate from there. Mounted Rangers will be patrolling the Blue Hills along with other DCR facilities throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

The program will be assigned to the Bureau and directly supervised by Deputy Chief Chris Williams who is setting up the unit in consultation with several former MDC and DEM mounted program staff. A Ranger II position will be filled this Spring to assist with daily horse care, stable relations, and patrols. Additional Ranger positions are being recommended for the next fiscal year. Rangers from outside the unit who have been 'certified' for mounted patrol will be occasionally utilized to maintain planned patrol levels. ☞

## Park Watch Magnets

### Appearing on a Refrigerator Near You!

Deputy Chief Adam Parr and Ranger John Garvey, with the assistance of the DCR sign shop and graphics office have produced a magnet to hand out promoting Park Watch.



Similar to Neighborhood Crime Watch, Park Watch was developed to encourage park visitors, user groups, and neighbors to be 'eyes and ears' for the parks to report problems, suspicious activities, and safety concerns. The toll free phone number, 1-866-PKWATCH, is answered by the rangers at the State House base and the reports are relayed to the appropriate Regional Ranger. ☞

## WANTED

**School Crossing Guards.** The DCR is hiring school Crossing Guards to work part-time in selected areas throughout Boston and greater Boston. Please call Christine Kurker at 617-626-1421 for more information.

## DCR SAR Managers Update Skills

Rangers who function as search managers have recently started a series of certified trainings to update or augment their skills. Offered by Northeast Wilderness Search and Rescue, courses are being held at the Massachusetts State Police Academy through the spring. Based on their individual needs, Ranger III's Steve Ouellette, Jenn Stowe, Jeanne Gilleney-DeCenzo, and Bob Rando are attending along with Curt Rudge, Chris Williams, and Kevin Tucker. Courses include 'Managing the Lost Person Incident', 'Urban Search Management', 'SAR Planning', and 'C.A.S.I.E. III', the SAR management software program. ☞

## Calling all Rangers!

Ranger Kathy Ward is collecting photographs of park rangers in action in hopes of creating a slide show or short promotional video. If you have photographs you would like to contribute, please send in digital format on a CD to: Clinton Field Office, Attn: Kathy Ward, PO Box 155, Clinton, MA 01510. If you like, include a written or electronic note on who took the photograph(s) so they may be credited.



massachusetts environmental education society

2008 conference: march 5, college of the holy cross, worcester

details: [www.massmees.org](http://www.massmees.org)

## DCR Park Passport Update

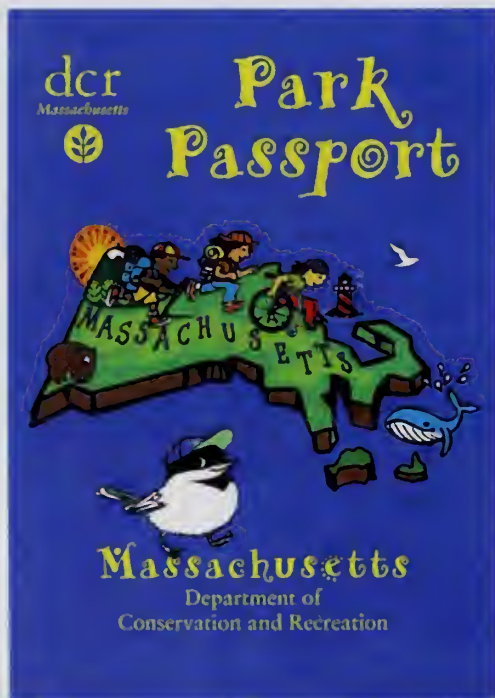
*By Ranger Peter Michaels, Central Region*

The Park Passport Program has been moving full steam ahead. Jason Hunt, Kathy Ward and Peter Michaels have all been working hard to see the program come to fruition. Here are some updates since our last report:

1. The Passport release date has been moved to May 2008
2. Stickers included with the passport will depict recreational activities instead of a park stamp image
3. Bureaus will receive stickers instead of stamps (Ranger Services, Fire, Universal Access)
4. Stamps will be housed in Passport Boxes (created by Skinner Park Crew; Mike Smyth, Dave Rogalski and Bob Findlater). The boxes were incorporated into the program to alleviate dependency on park staff to have to distribute stamps.

5. A stamp making machine has been acquired by the agency to create stamps in house. This is cost effective and will make replacing stamps easy and quick.
6. The Passport design has been finalized and is now being laid out by designer Martin Beveridge for printing.
7. Peter Michaels has been designated as Park Passport "Program Manager"
8. The park stamps are almost complete. They have been created by Micha Archer and look incredible!
9. A website component of the program is under development.

Jason, Kathy and Pete will be presenting an update of the program at the Supervisor's Academy in April and will be demonstrating passport box installation methods. This has been a very exciting project to work on and we are all looking forward to the release date in May. ☺



*Passport Cover*



*Passport Stamp*



*Passport Box*



## Seasonal Ranger Academies TBA

Planning has begun for the annual academies. Held previous to Memorial Day for the State Park Rangers and prior to the busier season for the Urban and Boston Harbor Island Rangers, the academies will continue to provide required training for a successful, effective, and safe season. Rangers Jennifer Stowe and Alex Hall have volunteered to steer the effort and have already started the discussions on program content and academy logistics. All rangers are encouraged to suggest course ideas, skill set needs, and to volunteer to assist in many ways. ☞

## 2008 Mooring Schedule

The lottery for public moorings at Poor Man's Landing in the Charles River Basin will begin shortly. This program is a unique and inexpensive option for boaters during the summer months. The cost for use of a mooring in this program is just \$6 per foot of the vessel length. Please call 617-626-1416 for more information on this program, and to obtain an application.

Applications Available: Mar 20 – May 1

All Applications In By: May 2, 2008

Date of Lottery: May 2, 2008

Mooring Season: May 15 – Nov 13

All Moorings out of the Water by: Nov 14

## 2007 NEPRA Conference

On November 29, 2007, the New England Park Ranger Association, aka NEPRA, hosted its annual conference at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster. The event was attended by over 50 guests, representing such agencies as the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Danvers Park System, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Keynote Speaker, former DCR Commissioner Kathy Abbott, spoke about the importance of partnering within the ranger profession. Following that, Ed Rizzotto of the National Park Service presented a screening of the film "The Thin Green Line", which documents the challenges and dangers faced by park rangers around the world.

After a hearty catered buffet lunch/networking session, the Conference resumed with two more guest speakers. Sergeant McCarthy of the Massachusetts State Police gave an introduction to self defense techniques. After that, LT Hermes, also of the MSP, provided instruction and guidance on writing effective reports, and how to prepare for courtroom proceedings.

Before wrapping up the conference, winners of the raffle prizes, which included a place to stay in Costa Rica, were announced. A tour of the host facility, owned and operated by the Trustees of Reservations, was offered to guests before their departure.

This year's conference is tentatively set for November 20, same location, so be sure to mark your calendars! ☞

*Steve Carlin, Supervisor of Great Brook Farm State Park, and DCR Ranger Liann Graff and look over the raffle prizes.*



## Going the Extra Mile

*By Captain Jennifer Stowe, Northeast Region*

***"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others." – Martin Luther King***

On the job, park rangers face long hours, inclement weather, and large crowds to say the least. Have you ever wondered what rangers do on their down time? A recent inquiry found four rangers that choose to spend some of their free time in the service of others. Why do they do it? For one, it's a way for a family to deal with a personal loss and in turn help others. For another, it's a way to give back to a group who can't defend themselves. As you read each of these stories, take a moment to consider how you could volunteer. Whether it be a one time contribution or a weekly mission, keep in mind the words of Mahatma Ghandi when he said *"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others"*

### **Captain Mike Nelson, Division of Urban Parks, North Region**

***"Susan G. Komen for the Cure"*** is an organization that is dedicated to fighting breast cancer. Their main source of income is the Komen Race for the Cure, which is a 5K Road Race/Walk that is held in over 100 locations all over the country and internationally. The race raises money for breast cancer awareness, research, and all aspects of quality care. Mike lost his mother after a 10 year battle with cancer in August, 2005, a couple weeks before her

68<sup>th</sup> birthday. During the 10 years of treatment, she took part in clinical trials that were on the cutting edge of cancer treatment. By all accounts, she was a huge success story for Mass General Hospital, and her life was extended years beyond expectation, while her quality of life never suffered...In September 2006, Mike and his family participated in their 1<sup>st</sup> Komen Race for the Cure in their mother's memory and they plan to continue participating for many years to come. They welcome anyone else who would like to join them. For more information, go to [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

### **Lt. Jason Hunt, Division of State Parks, Central Region**

***"Angel fund"- "CHIP"***... Not many people know that Lt. Jason Hunt is a member of the Mason Organization. Through this group he has worked on several charities. Included in this charitable work is the "Angel Fund" in which they raise money to purchase jackets, pants, etc. for children who do not have them. How it works is a teacher comes to the group privately with a request for a student he/she may have seen without something. No questions asked, the group will go out and buy whatever that child needs. Another program is the "CHIP" program or child identification program. The group will go to a school that requests it and take videos, DNA, and dental impressions and give all items to a parent/guardian for that time when

he/she may go missing. Jason and his wife have been blessed this year with a beautiful baby girl, and have devoted much of his free time with her, but plans on continuing his work with the Mason organization when time allows.

### **Lt. Kathy Ward, Division of State Parks, Central Region**

***"Getting dirty"***... Kathy has spent much of her free time this past year volunteering for the Trustees of Reservations, the oldest conservation organization in the nation! She has really enjoyed volunteering at the Stevens-Coolidge place planting flowers in the French garden, deadheading in the perennial garden and pruning and watering in the greenhouse and gardens. Want to see some pictures of this former estate? Go to [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org). Just recently, Kathy has begun the process of volunteering with Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She has submitted an application, had the interview, and is currently waiting for a Little Sister. The organization takes their match placements seriously and Kathy is very excited to get started. Want to make a difference yourself? Go to [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org). Both of these organizations are on the list of approved non-profits for the State Employees Responding as Volunteers (SERV) program.



# Ranger Dispatch


Bureau of Ranger Services

Vol. 2, No. 1 • Winter 2008

**Captain Jennifer Stowe,  
Division of State Parks,  
Northeast Region**

*"Horsing around"....* For those who know me, you are well aware of my passion for our four legged friends. Conversations with me usually end up talking about Emmitt (SAR dog), Elliot or that "crazy" horse Oliver. I consider myself lucky and privileged to have these wonderful pets in my

life. Last winter, I attended a few equine seminars hosted by the MSPCA at Nevins Farm and my eyes were opened to the wonderful work that the MSPCA does for this state. I signed up to volunteer for the equine/ farmyard animal division at the Methuen complex and haven't looked back. One day a week, is spent at the farm, where I help the incredible staff, with morning chores, grooming, repairs, etc. The

MSPCA takes in animals on a daily basis. Some are surrendered by owners who can no longer care for their pet, and others are acquired through cases of neglect and/or abuse. The MSPCA relies on fundraising, donations and volunteers to provide for all of these animals, and to rehabilitate and place in new homes. For more information go to [www.MSPCA.org](http://www.MSPCA.org) 



*Captain Jennifer Stowe with "Monty", who is awaiting adoption at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm*

## Celebrate the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy

*By Alec Gillman, VSS Mount Greylock SR/DCR CCC Program Committee Coordinator*

**\*Editor's Note:** This is part one of a three part series on the Civilian Conservation Corps, being published in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the CCC.

During the Great Depression, from 1933-42, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first New Deal initiatives was the creation of Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This federal program provided critical resources for conservation and recreation on public lands and work opportunities for unemployed young men and veterans.

The CCC program in Massachusetts had about 65 camps and enrolled 100,000 men, working on camp construction, road building, forestry, fire hazard reduction, pest control, wildlife habitat enhancement, and recreation area development, mostly on state forest land. 2008 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this remarkable public program. Consider your involvement in celebrating and interpreting the legacy that served as a catalyst; to develop tenants of modern conservation, which dramatically changed America's natural resource treasures, and formed a cornerstone of the Massachusetts State Park system.


### Roosevelt's Tree Army

Throughout his early political career in New York state Franklin D. Roosevelt spearheaded programs conserving forests, fish and game and pioneered legislation for managed forestry and reforestation. An a prelude to the Corps, when governor in 1931, Roosevelt supported a temporary emergency relief administration, which hired the unemployed to work in reforestation projects clearing underbrush, fighting fires, controlling insects, constructing roads and trails, improving forest ponds and lakes, and developing recreation facilities.

Across the nation development of state parks was in its infancy. In 1921 only 19 states had had any kind of state park system. By 1925 all 48 states had begun to formulate some park development plans, but the depression had halted most of their developmental work. During the Great Depression, similarly, other states, including California, Washington, Virginia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania (under the direction of Governor Gifford Pinchot, and former first Chief of the US Forest Service), Michigan, and Indiana, were hiring or planning for the unemployed to do conservation work.

Shortly after taking office in March of 1933 the Roosevelt introduced an unemployment relief bill for the employment of men on public works projects and conservation tasks urging:

*This enterprise is an established part of our national policy. It will conserve our precious natural resources. It will pay dividends to the present and future generations. It will make improvements in national and state domains which have been largely forgotten in the past few years of industrial development*

Soon after it passed, in less than one month, it was implemented in April. The Army was responsible for operating and supervising the camps, while the National Park Service and US Forest Service were to be responsible for the work projects. Through their efforts there was a three fold increase in the number of visitors to state parks by 1936. 

*\*Part 2 of this series will be published in the next edition of the Ranger Dispatch*



1933 -





## State House Detachment

*By Sean P. Dowd, State House Ranger*


Belated Happy New Year wishes to our fellow DCR employees from all of us with the State House Rangers. We find ourselves now in the post-holiday doldrums bringing the number of tourists down, but unabated are our visitors from Hollywood.

The State House has undergone several set changes in recent months, playing host to two major motion picture productions. Perhaps with no small hint of irony, for several days the State House was even made up to resemble the Vatican as part of a new 'Pink Panther' movie. Due for release this fall 'The Lonely Maiden' starring Morgan Freeman and Christopher Walken was also filmed at State House over the winter.

As ever, the Legislature keeps things active with

recent considerations of note including the state budget and a new law banning motorists from cell phone use while driving. The Governor's annual State of the State address drew thousands of spectators to the house chambers and beyond as video screens and audio relay provided for viewing in other areas of the building.

State House Rangers recently assisted State Police and Secret Service during a visit by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to Governor Deval Patrick.

Finally, we would like to ask you all to keep in your thoughts Captain Steven Owens of the State House Detachment as he recovers from recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. 


## Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

Under the topic of expanding our world, DCR is an active member of a number of new projects, and the Bureau of Ranger Services has been chosen to be a key player as these projects unfold. Governor Deval Patrick created the Massachusetts Mobility Compact with a vision "To promote and coordinate planning, design, construction and operations" in a manner that ".....will increase the safe mobility of people throughout the commonwealth". What this means to us is that we will be establishing a list of all critical DCR infrastructure including dams, bridges and roadways. Once the list is complete a process will be introduced to evaluate and prioritize the security aspect of each and recommend measures to assure their security.

Another new initiative by the administration is the Massachusetts Recovery Alliance under the umbrella of MEMA. Again the bureau is taking a lead role in this effort and is a member of the Infrastructure and Community Planning Subcommittee. Specifically, the Alliance is charged with putting together a plan to help communities recover from a natural or man-made disaster. Currently, plans are in place to deal with mitigation, preparation and response, but the recovery piece has not been well organized and the post Katrina situation has exposed the need.

And under the topic of what's old is new, we are very excited about bringing back our mounted unit. As most of you remember, both DEM and MDC had mounted units some years back but both were disbanded due to a lack of funding. Thanks to the efforts of many, the legislature has brought back mounted patrols to DCR. Although you will find more about the unit elsewhere in this newsletter, I just wanted to note the return and identify Deputy Chief Williams as the supervisor and lead person for the program.

Finally, back under the topic of expansion, we are thrilled that eight new park ranger positions will be filled this spring under the department's beaches initiative. This is the first time in years that such a significant move forward has been made to promote the duties of park rangers and we are grateful for the support Commissioner Rick Sullivan has demonstrated for our program. The challenges associated with all these initiatives are significant, such as equipping and training new staff or assembling everything necessary to restart a mounted unit, but I am absolutely certain that we welcome with enthusiasm each challenge and look forward to our future. 

Congratulations are in order for State House Ranger Kim Antonelli for preventing a potentially dangerous situation on Monday, February 11, when an identified suspect of a series of threatening phone calls directed at a state legislator attempted to gain access to the State House. Ranger Antonelli recognized and detained the individual until State Police arrived. Kudos to Ranger Antonelli on her vigilance and dedication to duty. 

## We want to hear from you!!

Comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

Department of  
Conservation & Recreation  
Bureau of Ranger Services  
Attn: Holly Bartlett  
251 Causeway St, Ste 800  
Boston, MA 02114

Or e-mail at:

[Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us](mailto:Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us)

**dcr**  
**Massachusetts**



*It's Your Nature*





# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

251 Causeway Street • Boston, MA • (617) 626-4963

Volume 3, Number 1

Fall 2009

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## Captain Bob Rando receives prestigious Paul Barnett Award

By Chris Williams, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Ranger Services

The prestigious Paul Barnett Award was recently awarded to Regional Ranger Robert Rando by the DCR Bureau of Ranger Services. Bestowed for 'Excellence in the Art and Science of Rangering', this award honors a Ranger who has spent a career in service as a 'Ranger's Ranger'. The Barnett Award is a peer recognition that is given to that individual whose overall impact, record of accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties has created an appreciation for the Park Ranger profession on the part of the public and other members of the profession. It is named for Paul Barnett, who was one of the Division of State Park's new Ranger II's who, unfortunately, succumbed to cancer at an early age. Paul was a perfect example of the DCR Ranger, bringing a blend of talents to his job and was admired by all, from both inside the profession and the public.

Bob has served in many capacities over his 39+ years with the DEM, now DCR, which have given him the foundation for the Ranger he is today. Starting as a laborer and then a supervisor at Pittsfield State Forest, he's served at Mt Washington, Sandisfield, October Mountain and Savoy. Along with his supervisory positions, Bob was one of the original Park Police in 1980 which was the roots of today's Park Ranger Program. Prior to becoming the Regional Ranger in 1998, he even performed as an Assistant Regional Director for seven months.

Excelling as an instructor, Bob has taught first aid, map & compass, ATV safety, Park Watch, and assisted in many areas at the annual Ranger Academy. He is DCR's go-to man for search & rescue in the Berkshires, running searches not only for the parks but often getting called in by local agencies and the MSP. His past and current employees speak highly of his supervisory approach and mentoring abilities.

Bob truly is the Ranger who has consistently gone out every day and done the traditional, generalist ranger duties of protecting the resources and serving the visitor, to the extent that he is a cornerstone of the Department of Conservation & Recreation. ☞



From l - r, Chris Williams, Award Recipient Bob Rando, Curt Rudge and Adam Parr

## BRS Annual Meeting Held at Hopkinton State Park

*By Chris Williams, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Ranger Services*

September 16<sup>th</sup> found Rangers from DCR's three divisions gathering at Hopkinton State Park for their annual meeting. Highlighted by a guest speaker and the awarding of the Paul Barnett Award, the day was filled with opportunities to network, recognition of achievements, and review of the season just completed.

Chief Rudge opened the meeting welcoming all and reminding everyone to always *"remember our core mission: life safety and protecting the resources."* The guest speaker, David Brown, Tracker-Naturalist, then took the stage. Addressing the topic: Conservation vs. Recreation, he suggested that 'the future of parks depends on the good will put forth by Rangers.' He further spoke that Rangers can include beauty and nature in their enforcement decisions and Interpreters can involve public disapproval of bad behavior in their interaction with our visitors. He concluded that we have to always be aware that there are two kinds of people who visit our

parks: those who love parks and those who love what they DO in our parks

Time for catching up with fellow Rangers followed during lunch, with food prepared by Jenn Stowe, Michelle O'Bannon, and their able assistants. This was also a time to capture comments and suggestions from all participants on easel pads placed around the pavilion. Many good ideas were logged in as well as many issues to be followed up on by Bureau staff. The formal meeting resumed after lunch with comments by DCR Deputy Commissioner Jack Murray and short presentations by each of the District Rangers.

Next up was special recognition of several Rangers. Seasonal Ranger of the Year Awards were presented to Will Anderson (pictured below, left) of Walden Pond State Park and Steve Gilchrist (pictured below, right), Ebersol Field Ranger. Will's many contributions at Walden were acknowledged including his able assistance with the crowds, parking, traffic, and emergencies as well as his proposed use of

Twitter for getting out information to the public. Steve was recognized for his friendly but professional interaction with the public visiting the Esplanade along with all the stakeholders in the park. Also appreciated was his work assisting the reservation staff with maintenance, and researching and presenting history and other DCR information. The third award presented was the Paul Barnett Award, appropriately bestowed upon Bob Rando, Regional Ranger from the Western Region. Given for *'excellence in the art and science of Rangering'*, this peer award recognized a careers-worth of professionalism as a 'Ranger's Ranger'. Bob, in his 39+ years of service, aptly fit the criteria and is now DCR's second recipient of this award. (See accompanying article.)

The annual meeting concluded with, by invitation as a representative of the up and coming generation of Rangers, Steve Gilchrist, who provided good words for all to take home with them. ☞





## Training Notes

By Kevin Tucker,  
Communications Section

### Medical First Responder and CPR/AED:

For all Park Rangers and SAR Team members, I have put together a number of Medical First Responder in-service classes in November. Each class will start at 8am and run to 4:30pm and signup will be through PACE. Keeping up your Medical First Responder and CPR/AED skills can be very important and even life saving, as recent events have proven. I will also be offering a make-up day for those who missed the Medical First Responder portion in previous years on December 1st, 2009 at John Augustus Hall in W. Boylston. The remaining dates are:

- November 24th - W. Boylston @ John Augustus Hall, Barr Room
  - December 1st - W. Boylston @ John Augustus Hall, Barr Room
- Make up day for First Responder Y1-2007 8am-12noon and Y2-2008 12:30pm - 4:30pm

### MSP Online Academy:

I have received a lot of positive feedback about this new training opportunity. People like the ability to go in and take classes online when their schedule allows. If you don't already have an account you can send me an email and I will set one up for you. I have gone through and picked out what appears to be a good number of classes appropriate to our job. I have not had a chance to review all the classes but I do know that

some have tests and others do not. Some produce certificates at the end while others do not. Please give me feedback as you take the classes and just like any other classes taken outside of DCR, once you have taken a class you can forward the info to your supervisor for entry into PACE so it can be tracked and become part of your permanent record. ☺

## Ranger Statistics Jan – Oct 2009

By Ranger John Garvey,  
Bureau of Ranger Services

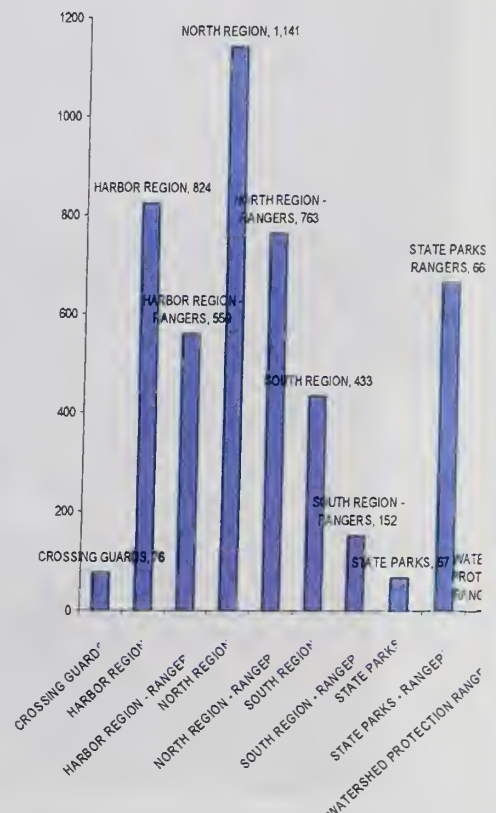
Rangers have a wide range of services that they provide for the visitors who come to all of the DCR parks. These services are conducted statewide and include Search and Rescue, Interpretive Programs, Rules and Regulation enforcement and a 24-hour dispatch center. This year Rangers have dedicated their time to ensure all of these services and more are done superbly.

Under MGL Law Chapter 132A, 7A, Rangers shall search for lost and missing persons. Rangers work in conjunction with State Police, Environmental Police and local Police on searches. They often use their K-9 team to assist in their efforts. Rangers have been deployed this year 143 times for Search and Rescue operations.

Interpretive Programming is another important service Rangers provide to visitors at DCR parks. They deliver both environmental and historical programs about DCR parks to enhance the visitors' experiences. Rangers have conducted more than 10,000 programs so far this year.

Rangers also patrol all of the recreational and conservation land for the DCR. Rangers are the face of the agency promoting stewardship by enforcing the Rules and Regulations. Rangers respond to incidents on DCR property, issue citations and submit reports. This year Rangers have issued over 2,800 citations and responded to and reported 593 incidents such as alarm calls, vandalism, medical assistance, and internal agency assistance.

The 24-hour communication center operates out of the State House Base and is staffed by Rangers. This valuable service connects other state and city agencies to the DCR year round. The communication center this year has handled 4,680 calls relating to DCR parks. ☺



State House Base Calls

## DCR Search and Rescue

*By Captain Jennifer Stowe, Northeast Region*

Search and Rescue has long been a priority for Park Rangers and park staff in Massachusetts. DCR is the largest landowner in the state and our beautiful properties entice people from every community to enjoy them. Unfortunately, sometimes those people find themselves lost or injured and unable to find their way out. DCR Park Rangers are mandated by law to perform search and rescue functions on DCR Property. The Bureau of Ranger Services has taken this mandate and gone full steam ahead.

Preplanning and training takes up the majority of time spent on SAR. Park staff across the state have gone through a myriad of SAR training in order to help them better deal with a situation as soon as it arises. The correct response to a report of a lost person in the initial stages will often dictate the outcome. This is reflected when

reviewing the incidents of Lost Persons database. From January 1, 2009- November, 1, 2009 there were 122 recorded incidents of Lost Persons on DCR Property. Of those 122 records only 4 were listed as Major Incidents that required multiple outside resources and several operational periods. What does this mean? DCR Rangers and staff excelled this year in their response to missing persons. Immediate response such as proper documentation of the missing person, organized hasty searches, containment techniques, and the knowledge to know when to call for additional assistance all resulted in most searches coming to a positive conclusion in a very short period of time. For example, imagine if you will, a busy day use facility at full capacity, 90 degrees, hot and humid, a small beach crowded with people, and miles of trails surrounding a very deep

pond and someone just reported to you a missing person....what do you do? That's exactly what the Ranger and Staff at Walden Pond had to deal with, on a regular basis this summer. Their efforts were all successful because of the time they had taken with training and preplanning. Staff knew what to do from the moment the lost person call was put out over the radio.

DCR SAR resources vary in nature. SAR Management teams assist at extended Search and Rescue incidents on DCR Property as well as assisting outside entities such as MSP and local authorities. The DCR Wilderness Air Scent SAR K9 Team continues to be active with several activations by the MSP and local authorities as well as DCR. On September 14, 2009, DCR K9 Maggie and her handler Chief Rudge located the body of a missing hunter at Townsend State Forest. Although this man was found deceased, this man was brought home to his family and the search event concluded with no serious injury to search personnel. Regional DCR SAR teams, although not called out on many large searches this year, were placed on standby several times. One could say that the quick thinking of staff during the initial phases of a search or the success of the K9 teams is putting the Regional Ground Teams "out of business"... but is that a "bad" thing? Despite the lack of recent call-outs, the teams remain dedicated, continue to train, and stay prepared to respond at any given moment.



*Lieutenant Kathy Ward participating in land navigation training with fellow DCR search team members.*



# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

Vol. 3, No. 1 • Fall 2009

The Bureau of Ranger Services has been very active this year in providing training to both DCR and other search entities. SAR Responder III, SAR Responder II, First Responder, CPR and First Aid, Basic Land Navigation, and ICS are courses all provided by Rangers this past year. GPS, Mapping, SAR Management are courses that have been requested by outside agencies and are in the planning stages for this winter.

Each day, new methods of assisting lost people in our parks and forests come forth. New trail marking signs at the Holyoke Range and Skinner State Park

instituted by Lt. Ranger Pete Michaels has been very helpful in the past few years with guiding lost people to safety. Advanced GPS cell phone technology allows dispatchers in 911 centers to assist searchers in reaching an injured hiker's location. The Bureau of Ranger Services will continue to maintain it's high standard for Search and Rescue whether it be to refresh the tried and true techniques or strive to learn and master new methods. DCR Rangers and Search and Rescue staff will continue to standby, ready to go at all times. *CS*



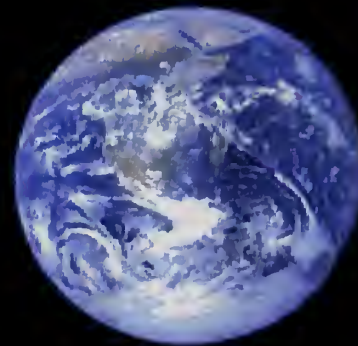
*Search K-9 Maggie with handler Chief Curt Rudge on a recent search for a missing person.*

## WANTED

### School Crossing Guards

The DCR is hiring school Crossing Guards to work part-time in selected areas throughout Boston and greater Boston. Please call Christine Kurker at 617-626-1421 for more information.

## Adopt Me



Earth Day  
40th Anniversary

Earth Day 2010  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
April 22, 2010

<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010/>



massachusetts environmental education society

2010 conference: march 3, college of the holy cross, worcester

details: [www.massmees.org](http://www.massmees.org)

department of Conservation and Recreation



## Northeast Region's Banner 2009 Season

*Barbara Buls, Regional Interpretive Coordinator*

The **Northeast Region** of State Parks has benefitted directly from several years of consistent long term seasonal staffing, as well as park appropriate short term staffing. The state of the economy has also put DCR in a good position for hiring experienced and knowledgeable staff. Despite a miserably rainy start to the summer (both the months of June and July!), the number of visitors that interpreters contacted at programs and through visitors services and informal interpretation was phenomenal.

Records gathered to date show that 1210 programs were offered this 2009 season in the Northeast Region, with 16,646 children and

12,527 adults with a total of 29,173 attending! Visitor contacts (visitors services "Where are the bathrooms?" and informal interpretation "Why do those birds nest here?") totaled 30,687 individuals, and visitation to our 4 visitors and nature centers totaled 23,369. Although numbers are difficult, aren't they? What do they mean? Is this a lot or a little? The only way to know is to compare them with other numbers that mean basically the same thing; covering the same months with the same number of interpreters in the same parks. Apples to apples and oranges to oranges.



*Northeast Interpretive Staff: Front L to R: John Ratti, Halibut Point; Garry Dow, Sandy Point; Donna Sudak, Maudslay. Rear L to R: Lesya Struz, Great Brook Farm; Kim Hoff, Walden; Bob Anderson, Harold Parker; Mareike Conrad, Cochituate; Barbara Buls, Regional Interpretive Coordinator; Michael Mitchell, Walden Pond Visitor Service Supervisor. Not pictured: Dani Priddy, Walden Pond and Richard Padova, Lawrence Heritage.*

### Program attendance from 2005 - 2009

YEAR	# PROG.	CHILDREN	ADULTS	TOTAL	INFORMAL	VSTR SVC	V.C.
2005	786	9921	13506	23427	11583	9840	11802
2006	1106	18003	16733	34744	14560	32708	30546
2007	914	14418	14703	33996	10598	16545	18796
2008	1151	15612	12738	28350	14336	20690	20337
2009	1210	16646	12527	29173	30687		23369

The above table shows program numbers and attendance from 2005 – 2009. Between the years of 2007 and 2008, we saw a decrease in the number of interpreters on staff from 9 Northeast Region parks to 8 with seasonal interpreters. This season, the numbers for informal interpretation and visitors services were combined into one value, both for ease of reporting and cross over of the definitions of those two categories.

What does it all mean? Certainly with the downturn in the economy, people are seeking stay-cations rather than flying off to more "exotic" locations, but the numbers also show some other interesting aspects, particularly when qualitative factors are considered. Within the time frame from 2005 to present, programming in this region has increased in quality and focus; we are now able to offer programs that speak directly to the parks' resources. Some examples might be

**Flower Walks at Maudslay State Park**, timed to coincide with the amazing rhododendron bloom, **Tower Tours at Halibut Point** which tell the story of the military history of the Fire Control Tower and its role at the park, comprehensive drumlin, marsh, and barrier beach programs at **Sandy Point** and **Salisbury Beach**, and recreational opportunities such as the learn to fish programs offered at **Harold Parker State Forest**, **Cochituate State Park** and **Walden Pond State Reservation** in the last two years. With the



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availability of the Urban Park's North Region canoes, the interpreter at **Harold Parker** was also able to offer free canoeing programs that filled up within a couple of weeks. Visitors are anxious to come and learn about our parks!

Northeast Region highlights from this season:

- Vast improvements to the **Harold Parker** campground field, which transformed this year from a mere open field to a visitor friendly space with communal fire pit for campfire programs, a carport tent for rain/shade, horseshoe pits and a volleyball net! The constant use by the campers showed a real need for this simple improvement in services provided. Campfire attendance was between 75 and 100 every Saturday night.
- The opening of the Fire Control tower at **Halibut Point**, complete with

displays and awaiting the azimuth used by the military during WWII.

- A continual presence of an interpreter at **Sandy Point State Reservation**, visited by as many as 4000 - 8000 people per month. Presence of a staff person at this park is vital due to a limited parking issue. The interpreter this year offered 30% more programs this year than last, almost doubling attendance!

Even now, with the seasonal interpreters gone for the 2009 season, programming continues in the Northeast with hikes, demonstrations and historic and cultural, as well as natural history programming offered by the regional and district rangers and the regional interpretive coordinator. A complete brochure can be found by following this link:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/events/northeast.pdf>

Even in the absence of a seasonal interpretive staff, programming is still vital and important to us at DCR! Join us also for First Day Hikes on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to ring in the New Year. Hike locations will be posted soon on the DCR web calendar of events. So come on outside, join us for the dropping temperatures and beautiful resources of the Commonwealth. There is so much to enjoy in State Parks' Northeast Region! ☸



*Kids enjoy meeting Smokey Bear at Harold Parker State Forest*



*North Region Rangers recently acquired a patrol boat from the Environmental Law Enforcement fleet. This will be used for boater rules education and public safety patrols along the Charles and Mystic Rivers, and the Massachusetts coastline from Lynn to East Boston. This is a much needed asset during bad weather months as the Ranger program has been without a closed cabin boat for over four years.*

department of Conservation and Recreation

## Massachusetts: Spirit of American Parks

*By Steven Gilchrist,  
Seasonal Ranger, North Region*

The state of Massachusetts is the home to many remarkable places. From colleges, hospitals, museums and historical landmarks – there are several important locations in the Bay State. I recently discovered another fascinating component to the state: a world renowned system of public parks and one of the largest state park systems in America.

For the past couple of months I've been exploring the Massachusetts' parks system, specifically within the greater Boston area. In April, I began a seasonal job working as a park ranger for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Urban Parks, formerly known as the Metropolitan District Commission. The DCR was created in 2004 when the Metropolitan District Commission merged with the Department of Environmental Management. Overall, the Department of Conservation and Recreation strives to protect over 450,000 acres of state park land.

I am currently stationed at the Teddy Ebersol's Red Sox Fields at Lederman Park. The Teddy Ebersol Fields are the newest addition to the Charles River Esplanade. The Fields are named in honor of Edward "Teddy" Ebersol, who died in a tragic plane crash on November 28, 2004. Teddy was an avid Boston Red Sox fan.

Although working at the Teddy Ebersol Fields is my primary assignment, I have had the opportunity to visit some other DCR parks.

One weekend I partnered with another park ranger at Lynn Shores & Nahant Beach Reservation doing a litter clean-up. I've gone on hikes in the Middlesex Fells Reservation and Breakheart Reservation in Saugus.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation encompasses 2,575 acres across five towns: Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester. The word "Fells" is derived from the Saxon word for rocky, hilly tracks of land.

Thus far, one of my favorite experiences of being a park ranger was when I participated in a training retreat in May. During the training I visited three of the Boston Harbor Islands: George's, Lovell's, and Spectacle Islands. George's Island is the location of Fort Warren – a National Historic Landmark. George's Island is one of several historic landmarks within the DCR system – which dates back to the late 1800s.

Historically, Massachusetts has been at the forefront of park preservation. On June 3, 1893, Massachusetts Governor William Eustis Russell signed a bill establishing the Metropolitan Park Commission. The Commission's purpose was to oversee the Metropolitan Park System. This system was the first regional system of public open space in the United States.

Two of the main proprietors of the system were landscape architect Charles Eliot of Cambridge and Sylvester Baxter of Malden. Prior to the formation of the Metropolitan Park Commission, Baxter and Eliot

organized the Trustees of Public Reservations in 1891. The purpose of this organization was to mobilize private citizens to become protectors of the remaining open land in the Boston region. In the late 1800s the public open land around Boston was diminishing because of industrialization. Eliot and Baxter saw a need for citizens to invest in protecting park lands.

Baxter and Eliot developed their park reservation models after noted American landscape architects H.W.S. Cleveland, Robert Morris Copeland, and Frederick Law Olmstead. In an 1869 editorial, Copeland wrote about his vision for developing a set of park land circling the hills of Boston.

After serving as an apprentice to Olmstead, Charles Eliot traveled to Germany and Great Britain in 1885. Eliot studied the land preservation techniques of these two European countries. When Eliot returned to Massachusetts in 1886 he applied the park preservation methods he learned in Europe to eventually establish the Metropolitan Park System – of which he was the primary founder and landscape architect.

In addition to being a preservationist, Sylvester Baxter wrote for the Boston Daily Advertiser newspaper. Baxter was especially interested in preserving the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

Baxter, Eliot and the other members of the Metropolitan Park Commission envisioned an interconnected park system around Boston. The system was designed to have three wooded reservations ranging from Quincy (south of Boston), Waltham (west





of Boston), and Lynn (north of Boston). These three reservation areas are connected by the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset rivers.

The Beaver Brook Reservation was the first reservation created by the Metropolitan Park Commission. Beaver Brook is the location of the historic home of 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape architect Robert Morris Copeland. The Blue Hills Reservation was another property purchased by the Metropolitan Park Commission in 1893. Prior to the arrival of European explorers to the Blue Hills, Native Americans inhabited the region. They referred to themselves as “Massachusett” or “people of the great hills.”

In 1919, the Metropolitan Park Commission was renamed the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). The MDC remained in place until it merged with the Department of Environmental Management in 2004.

If you are looking for fun and historic places to visit for a summer outing, look no further than some area DCR properties. One historic place that I have seen first hand is a monument dedicated to Charles Eliot. The monument is located along the Charles River Esplanade near the Community Boating center. There is a message inscribed on the four-sided monument which reads: “To honor Charles Eliot (1859-1897), Landscape

Architect: He sought out hill, forest, shore, for all to enjoy.” For more information about DCR parks visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). ☞

“The supreme reality of our time is the vulnerability of our planet.”

~John F. Kennedy



## STATE HOUSE RANGER NAMED CHAIRMAN OF LINCOLN COMMISSION BY GOVERNOR

*By Robert von Wolfgang, State  
House Ranger*

On February 11, 2008 Governor Deval Patrick issued Executive Order 497 establishing the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Massachusetts. The Governor appointed Statehouse Ranger Robert von Wolfgang as chairman of the fifteen member commission, which also includes DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan.

Von Wolfgang has been studying and writing about Lincoln for almost forty years. The purpose of the commission is to honor the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Lincoln in Massachusetts through tributes and programs. Von Wolfgang explained that one of the main ingredients of the bicentennial will be to make

Massachusetts residents more aware of the many accomplishments of our 16<sup>th</sup> president and how, after 150 years, Lincoln relates to the present day world.

"The most important part of our tribute to Lincoln was the establishment of a website for the commission," stated von Wolfgang. He convinced UMass President Jack Wilson to have the UMass-Amherst Office of Information Technology develop and maintain the website. "We have been able to post so much information about Lincoln and Massachusetts and list the many Lincoln tributes and events going on in the State over the past year" said von Wolfgang. "Lincoln came to Massachusetts on a political mission in 1848 and made a ten day campaign swing in support in his friend, presidential candidate Zachary Taylor" said von Wolfgang. The commission has developed a guide to Lincoln's visit in 1848 on their website which included visits to ten Massachusetts cities and towns. Von Wolfgang also pointed out that there has been over 75 events and activities in Massachusetts concerning the Lincoln Bicentennial. "If you go to our website, you will be very surprised at how many events the commission has been involved with over the past year and a half in the state" observed a very satisfied von Wolfgang.

Von Wolfgang has enjoyed his time serving as Chairman of the Lincoln Commission for Massachusetts but points out he is also one of the fifty Governor's Council members of the national Abraham Lincoln Commission. "The Lincoln celebration has been a huge success all over the

country. People are much more aware of why Lincoln is considered our greatest president. Our commission will expire at the end of the year but interest in Lincoln will continue to grow with each passing year and for any contribution our commission made towards expanding that interest, I and the commission members are gratified."

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Massachusetts website can be found at: [www.malincn.org](http://www.malincn.org). ☞

## OUTDOOR BOOK REVIEW

### THE LAST SEASON

By Eric Blehm

In July, 1996 Backcountry Ranger Randy Morgenson hefted his pack and headed out on patrol in Kings Canyon National Park. Randy disappeared, and "THE LAST SEASON" tells of the days and weeks that ensued and the intense search that was conducted to find him. For us park rangers here in the east, Blehm paints a picture of National Park Service backcountry rangers who spend entire seasons in the field operating from remote locations. The book affords us a glimpse of this unusual assignment and the dedicated rangers who seek them out. It's also a great search epic by rangers consumed by searching for one of their own. Definitely a good read for anyone in the profession.

Review written by Chief Curt  
Rudge ☞



## Connecting Children to the Outdoors: The Kidleidoscope Program

By Amy Wilmot, Regional Interpretive Coordinator

One of the hot phrases in the Department of Conservation and Recreation is *No Child Left Inside*. *No Child Left Inside* is a promise, a pledge...designed to help today's children reconnect with the great outdoors, while building the next generation of environmental stewards. For decades, the DCR seasonal Interpretive program has been connecting children to the outdoors and fostering future stewards. One program in particular, the Kidleidoscope program, has been reaching the

very young children successfully for over twenty years now.

Kidleidoscope was developed for preschoolers in 1985 at the Boston Harbor Island State Park on Grape Island by Ellenor Yahrmarkt. Children and their parents would take a boat to the island and the island managers would conduct a program consisting of exploration, story, and a craft. It was well received and it gave the managers something to do on a weekday when it was quiet. When Ellenor moved on to Borderland she started the program there in 1993. At Borderland, the program grew to an extremely popular year round event for children ages 2-6 years old and their accompanying adults.

Over that past five seasons, this program has been rolled out at several other state parks on a seasonal basis through the seasonal Interpretive program. Interpreters are given the opportunity to explore the reasons for and methods of connecting the preschool age child to the great outdoors. The 45 minute to one

hour Kidleidoscope program is based around a theme that is accessible and easily understood by this age group, such as "Frogs are Green; Toads are Brown" or "Trees Grow from Seeds." The Interpreter develops an outdoor activity, a craft, and selects a storybook based on the theme of the program. Each week, the Interpreter develops a new and different theme and families often return week after week to learn about something new at their state park.

Kathryn Parent, the Interpreter at Blackstone says, "Highlights of the Kidleidoscope program are that the families return each week and they usually have questions about something they found or saw in their own back yard, and wait all week to share it with me." Another Interpreter commented, "The Kidleidoscope program here is going beautifully! Attendance averages around 18 kids in the 3-6 age bracket, but there are always extra little ones." In the Southeast Region, average attendance for the 2009 season was high as well. Borderland State Park averaged about 20 participants per program and Nickerson State Park welcomed about 18 participants per program on average.

Connecting children to nature at such an early age is crucial if we want children to grow up feeling right at home in the great outdoors. The Kidleidoscope program is one way to successfully connect the little ones to the natural world, promote family experiences and engagement, and build awareness and interest in the DCR state park system. With Kidleidoscope, we hope that no child will be left inside! ☺



## Celebrate the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy

By Alec Gillman, VSS Mount  
Greylock SR/DCR CCC  
Program Committee  
Coordinator

**\*Editor's Note:** This is the final part of a two-part series on the Civilian Conservation Corps, being published in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the CCC.

### 3 Million Enrollees.


Enrollees averaged between 18 and 25 years old and signed on for a six month period, or up to two years. Of the \$30 they earned each month as pay, \$25 of it was sent home to support needy family members; giving rise to the saying "another day, another dollar." Nationally, 3 million enrollees participated in the CCC and had the experience of a lifetime. Aside from the rigorous outdoor work, was the opportunity to learn a variety of trades, take evening classes, get a high school diploma

or simply learn to read. Many alumni still refer to their days in the CCC as the "best time of my life."

On June 28, 1937, Congress passed new legislation that formally established the Civilian Conservation Corps (officially no longer the ECW). However the CCC was never made a permanent agency. Due to the increasing lack of applicants, desertion, and the number of enrollees leaving for jobs that had reduced the Corps, Congress discontinued funding (but did not abolish) the CCC on July 1, 1942, in the midst of US involvement in World War II and a focus on national defense. The CCC had served its purpose in a time of great need, serving the needs of economic recovery and conservation of our natural resources.

The legacy of the CCC survives in the multitude of recreational areas developed by them in our state and national parks that we still enjoy today. It focused a generation on the importance of conservation. It led to the development of modern service-learning corps such as Student Conservation Corps, and among others. And it provides us with the

inspiration that, against all odds, society can pull together to achieve noble objectives such as caring for our natural heritage.

Carry on this legacy to inspire others toward a more sound conservation ethic and accessible recreational experience. For more information on the DCR CCC Program Committee and upcoming programs contact: Alec Gillman, c/o Mount Greylock State Reservation, P.O. Box 138, Lanesborough, MA 01237. (413) 499-4262, or email [alexander.gillman@state.ma.us](mailto:alexander.gillman@state.ma.us) 



1933-1942



*The CCC building Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mount Greylock in 1936.*



*The Bascom Lodge as it appears today, following extensive restoration work.*



## Make a Difference!

- **Student Conservation Association (SCA)**  
Created in 1957 and modeled after the CCC, a national nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities: [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)
- **The Corps Network (NASCC)** is a descendant of the CCC. Since 1985 it has created a national clearinghouse of information and fundraising sources for conservation corps. [www.nascc.org](http://www.nascc.org)
- **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)** every September since 1994, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands, keeping alive the promise of the CCC to preserve and protect America's natural heritage.  
[www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)
- **DCR Park Serve Day** every May, a one day volunteer event to participate in state park clean-ups across the Commonwealth.  
[www.massparks.org](http://www.massparks.org)



*The handiwork of the CCC is still evident in many Massachusetts State Parks, such as this dam at Ruggles Pond in Wendell State Forest.*

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- Drew, Bernard A., *Dam Beavers: Civilian Conservation Corps 196<sup>th</sup> Company, 1933-37, and Construction of York Lake at Sandisfield State Forest.*, Attic Revival Press, Great Barrington, MA, 2007.
- For a more complete list of books on the Great Depression period and the CCC program visit the NACCCA bibliography webpage: [www.cccalumni.org/biblio.html](http://www.cccalumni.org/biblio.html)
- Or NPS CCC bibliography [www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/ccc/cccb.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/ccc/cccb.htm)



*CCC alumni and one modern day successor, the Student Conservation Association, join in celebration of CCC Day at the Statehouse, March 30, 2007.*

## The New England Park Ranger Association: New look, new board, new opportunities

*By Kathryn Ward, President,  
New England Park Ranger Association*

NEPRA

NEPRA

The New England Park Ranger Association (NEPRA) was created to promote the advancement of the Park Ranger profession by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas through interaction with park professionals, educators and others interested in the Ranger profession. NEPRA plays a leadership role in encouraging the highest standards of public service in the region and is committed to enhancing the Ranger profession through training, networking, research and social enrichment.

During the past year, NEPRA strove to make changes that would bring the association into a new era. The look of NEPRA was sharply freshened with a new logo and we have begun to use new technologies like Facebook to keep us in touch with our membership. The bylaws were thoughtfully revised to address video conferencing, voting procedures, and the possibility of additional chapters in hopes of expanding our membership.

This year the annual conference date was changed from November to September 24<sup>th</sup> and in doing so we were able to have lunch, the business meeting, and portions of trainings outside. We did our best to provide what was requested on last years evaluations, pertinent topics effecting current everyday life, and training that will help our members to be as valuable as possible in preparation for the future of conservation, business, and communication. The conference included such topics as:

- Budget Basics presented by Consumer Credit Counseling Services;
- Combating the Asian Longhorned Beetle presented by Clint McFarland and Ken Gooch;
- Using Twitter or a Blog to keep the visiting public informed presented by DCR Ranger Will Anderson and Walden employees Jon and Chris Hoffman;
- GPS field exercise with EPO, DCR, and civilian SAR team instructors; and
- Get More out of NEPRA by getting involved in a subcommittee.

This coming year looks to be even more challenging than ever with hiring freezes, looming budgetary constraints, and experienced personnel beginning in a trickle what is sure to be a wave of retirement in the coming years. With a little focus and organization, I believe there are a great many possibilities of what NEPRA can provide.

- I would like to see NEPRA offer resources for students to be prepared for a job whether that is a list of recommended courses or a conversation or ride along with someone who can share their knowledge and experience.
- I want to help to provide relevant trainings that will be of interest to all levels of seniority and pertinent to all conservation organizations in the New England states.
- I want to think a step above all of our current professional positions and provide trainings that will guide members toward their goals.
- And I want to foster greater communication, camaraderie, and feedback between the Board and the membership.

So keep the [www.neranger.org](http://www.neranger.org) website in your favorites and keep checking for updates, job postings, and new training opportunities! ☺

### **Training Opportunity** **Resumes, Cover Letters and Conveying Your Skills Through Technical Writing for Rangers**

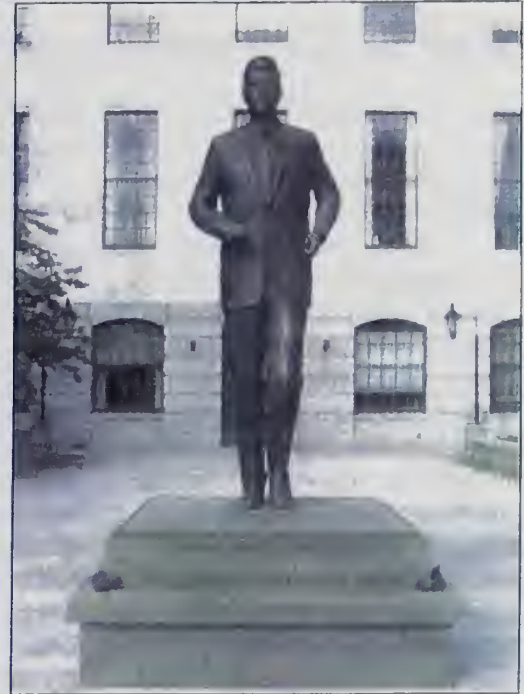
**When:** Monday, December 21

**Time:** 9am – 3pm

**Where:** Minuteman National Park, Concord  
**Details/Signup:** [www.yankeeranger.org](http://www.yankeeranger.org)

**Training provided by Ranger Heather  
Honnold, National Park Service**





## State House Detachment

*By Sean P. Dowd, State House Ranger*

As is known to happen from time to time, Beacon Hill found itself again in the 24 hour national news rotation recently. This time Republicans and Democrats alike took time out to honor the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. As the news helicopters followed closely from a cloudless sky, the Senator's funeral procession passed by the Bowdoin Street apartment where Senator Kennedy and his late brother, the President, launched their political careers. The streets around the State House became jammed with flag waving spectators while across the street from the Senate President's balcony, legislators likewise paid their respects.

DCR Ranger Lt. Robert Lambert of the night shift recalls a recent State House visit during which the Senator fondly spoke to him of the time he anxiously awaited election results with his brother, the future President, from the Bowdoin Street apartment during JFK's early run for U.S. Congress.

Perhaps paying homage to the late Senator, lawmakers quickly transitioned from somber remembrance to the business at hand inside the State House. The debate began in earnest as to whether or not to temporarily fill Senator Kennedy's seat. A

temporary appointment was made in lieu of a special election to be held later this year. As might be expected, much public fervor abounded under the dome, keeping DCR Rangers as busy as ever.

The state's budget crisis has been keeping things interesting at the State House from a security standpoint as well. "Things are just a little crazy right now." Says DCR Lt. Sean Flood of the day shift, "I've never seen this many protest groups during any time in my career at the State House while performing security." Flood cites the recent economic crisis for possibly sparking so much controversy. "During tough financial times people's emotions run hot, we're just encouraging our staff to stay alert at all times." Said Flood.

Public demonstrations are not just a daytime occurrence recently, it seems. A group raising awareness for global warming has pledged to camp out every Sunday night on Boston Common through December, so that they may lobby the legislature each Monday morning.

As the weather turns cold, we at the State House Ranger Detachment would like to wish all of our DCR colleagues warmth, health and happiness in the coming holiday season. ☺

## Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

To be a park ranger is to be a jack of all trades in the realm of the out of doors. For the most part, our priority of service is life safety, followed closely by resource protection and always supported by education and interpretation. Rangers are frequently field-oriented, administratively shy, and go through life with a "get 'er done" attitude. In short, if you are in a park and need medical service, want to report an injustice done to the resource or want to learn more about the woodlands and it's inhabitants, your best bet would be to go find a park ranger. It is with these thoughts in mind that I write this message.

On October 11, 2009, Ranger Peter Michaels responded to a call requesting him to locate and assist an injured hiker at the Holyoke Ranger State Park. Lt. Michaels responded to the scene with his ATV, helped locate the injured subject, transported the first EMT to the scene, and helped coordinate the rescue between the five agencies responding.

On October 12, 2009, never to be outdone by Lt. Michaels, Ranger Jason Hunt responded to a hiker who had suffered a heart attack after hiking to the summit of Mt. Wachusett. Lt. Hunt performed CPR on the subject and deployed his assigned AED and, on the second shock, revived the subject, essentially saving his life.

The plan is, and always has been, simple, select the most qualified candidates for a position you can find, train them to perform the tasks expected of them, and equip them properly to support the task performance, and good things will happen. I am proud to know that all DCR Park Rangers are prepared and equipped to perform as Lt.'s Michaels and Hunt performed that weekend, and

kudos to the Lt.'s for demonstrating the success of the plan.

It is often said that good things come to those who wait, and on October 27, 2009, after nine long months of waiting Dpty. Chief Kristin Karl-Carnahan gave birth to a bouncing baby boy named Connor. Congratulations to Kristin and her husband, Patrick, and, on behalf of the entire bureau, we wish nothing but the best for the entire Karl-Carnahan family. In Kristin's absence, a number of folks will be stepping in to help out and a note to clarify where to address interpretive matters will be coming out soon. In the meantime, please forward any interpretive inquiries you may have to my office and we'll make sure they are addressed.

Sadly, I have to conclude this missive with most disappointing news. The recent reduction in workforce has taken a toll on two valuable members of the Bureau of Ranger Services. Bill Stokinger's position has been eliminated in the round of layoffs we just went through, and Holly Bartlett is a victim of the bumping process. When people ask me about my job and what the highlights of it are, I always start out with the simple fact that I love to go to work every day because I work with some of the most wonderful people you could ever know. To a person, my colleagues are hard working, honest, and trustworthy and always have your back, and Bill and Holly are shining examples. To me they are each an irreplaceable asset, a leaning post, a confidant, a resource and a crutch, but most importantly, a friend. They will always be a welcome sight on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor and I wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors, whatever they might be and where ever they may take them. ☺

## We want to hear from you!!

Many, many thank-yous to all who contributed and made this Newsletter possible!!

As always, comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

Department of  
Conservation & Recreation  
Bureau of Ranger Services  
Attn: Holly Bartlett  
251 Causeway St, Ste 800  
Boston, MA 02114

Or e-mail at:

[Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us](mailto:Holly.Bartlett@state.ma.us)

**dcr**  
**Massachusetts**



*It's Your Nature*





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# Ranger Dispatch

Bureau of Ranger Services

251 Causeway Street • Boston, MA • (617) 626-4963

Volume 4, Number 1

Winter 2010

## DCR's Blue Hills Reservation Maple Sugaring

### A Huge Success

On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Maple sugaring enthusiasts joined DCR's Blue Hills staff for a fun-filled day of unlocking the mysteries of maple sugaring. Children and adults alike enjoyed chatting with costumed characters, while learning the fundamentals of tapping for sap. The Maple Express Trolley was waiting nearby to take the visitors to the sugar shack at scenic Brookwood Farm. Clouds of steam were rising from the bubbling sap while savoring the taste of real maple syrup was a treat for all! Sitting by a warming fire down on the farm and enjoying the music and games was a wonderful way to end a perfect day!



*Maple Sugar Days is a joint program of the DCR and Massachusetts Audubon's Trailside Museum.*

## It's Maple Sugaring Time!

Welcome to the Trailside Museum and the DCR maple grove and sugar shack at the Brookwood Farm. The DCR sponsors maple sugaring educational programs during early to mid-March at two sites within the Metropolitan Boston area, Brookwood Farm at the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton and Breakheart Reservation in Saugus. By late March the sugaring season is drawing to a close in eastern Massachusetts, but maple sugaring is still active in western Massachusetts, and northern New England.

For more information on maple sugaring operations which are open to the public, check the Web at [www.massparks.org](http://www.massparks.org) or by calling the Maple phone line at 413-628-3912 for a list of participating sugarhouses and restaurants.

This service is provided by the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

### Which trees do you tap?

The rock, or **sugar maple** (*Acer saccharum*), will give you the most syrup because it has the highest concentration of sugar in its sap. However, all species of maple trees produce sap that can be boiled to make syrup.

### Be sure the trees you tap are healthy!

Look at the trees you plan to use the summer before you will tap them. Are the leaves a healthy green? Are there any large dead branches, exposed heartwood, or exposed roots? Check with your county forester for maple tree conditions in general. If you find any signs that your trees are unhealthy, do not tap them. Maples are subject to lots of

stress, such as air pollution, root compaction, acid rain, gypsy moths, pear thrips, etc. Tapping weak, sick or damaged trees can potentially kill them. Your trees are much more important alive, producing oxygen, wildlife habitat, shade, and reducing air, water and visual pollution, than dead for the sake of maple syrup.

### When is the best time to tap?

In the metropolitan Boston area, late February or early March, depending on weather conditions. The sap in maple trees begins to flow from the roots up to the branches when the air temperature is below freezing at night and above freezing during the day.

### What equipment is required?

A **wood brace** (drill) and **7/16 inch wood bit** (auger type is best) to drill a hole into the tree.

**Spiles** (metal spouts) for the sap to run from the tree into your buckets. Spiles usually come with hooks which you use to hang your bucket. They are sometimes available in hardware stores. Most come from Vermont companies.

A **hammer** to tap the spiles into the trees.

**Buckets** to hang from the spiles to collect the sap. These can be plastic milk jugs.

A **metal strainer** to strain out the twigs, bark, leaves, etc. that invariably falls into the sap while it is collecting in the buckets.

A **large pot** and a way to boil the sap for several hours. You can use your kitchen stove, but be aware that your house will become very humid because you must boil 35 – 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

Some form of fat, such as cream or a piece of bacon, to control the boiling of the sap as it nears its finished state.

A **candy thermometer** for testing the syrup, **felt** for straining the syrup when it is ready, a **funnel** for pouring it into your bottles and **glass bottles** to store it in.

**Pancakes** to put the syrup on or popcorn or ice cream or in soup or drinks, etc.





## How do you tap?

Drill a 7/16" hole two inches deep into solid, live wood. If possible tap on the south side of the tree – the sunlight helps the sap run on cold days. The hole should be either straight in or tilting slightly up so that the sap will flow down the spile and into the bucket. Tap in the spile with a hook on it. Don't hammer it too hard, or you may split the tree, and you'll have a hard time removing the spile when the sap has stopped running. Now hang up your bucket. If possible put a lid over the bucket to keep out the rain, snow, insects, bark and twigs.

## How many spiles per tree?

Do not tap trees that are less than 10 inches in diameter at chest height. Use one spile on 10 to 14 inch trees, two spiles on 15 to 19 inch trees, and three on larger trees.

## Do not over tap your trees!

Sensible tapping does not harm them – overtapping may kill them.

## How much sap/syrup do you get per spile?

In an average year you may get 15 – 25 gallons of sap from each spile. It takes 35 – 50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup, depending on how much sugar is in the sap of your trees.

## How often should you collect sap?

Sap should be collected daily when it is flowing, and boiled down as soon as possible. Sap goes bad (loses its sugar and looks "milky") very quickly when it's above freezing.

## How do you turn the sap into syrup?

First strain it with your metal strainer to get out all the twigs and bark. Then put it in your big pot and boil it, boil it and boil it. Depending on how big your pot is and how hot your stove or fire is, it will take 2 to 6 hours to boil the sap enough to make it syrup. You may see small particles that come to the surface as it is boiling.

## When is it syrup?

As the sap nears the proper consistency it will do four things to let you know:

**Change color** – It will turn the familiar amber color of maple syrup.

**Produce thick foam** – It will have thick amber colored foam. If the sap/syrup begins to foam out of your pot simply add a few drops of cream or touch it with a strip of bacon. The fat will immediately reduce the foaming.

**Become thicker** – While it is still hot and boiling it won't be as thick as cool syrup, but it will be much thicker than the sap.

**Increase in temperature** – This is the most accurate way of telling. Maple syrup boils seven degrees higher than water, or 219 degrees Fahrenheit, or 104 degrees Centigrade. Use your candy thermometer to test it.

## How do you take care of your syrup?

If your syrup is a little thin it can turn sour. If it is too thick it can form sugar crystals. In either case just bring it to a boil, skim off the foamy layer, and it will be as good as new. Syrup should be refrigerated.

## What do you do when it's finished boiling?


Syrup has a natural grittiness which can be strained out. Put the felt into your funnel, and the funnel into your glass bottle. While the syrup is still hot (at least 180 degrees) pour it through the felt. Let the syrup cool, put the top on firmly and you're done!

## When is the Sugaring season over?

The season usually lasts from two to six weeks, until the tree's buds begin to open. If the syrup has an "off" taste, the season is over. Soon after the sap will stop running.

**The Department of Conservation and Recreation** is a multi-service environmental agency responsible for the management and stewardship of the urban and state parks throughout Massachusetts. The DCR was legislated in 2003 by merging the resources of the former Metropolitan District Commission and the Department of Environmental Management, creating one unified park system within the Commonwealth.

**Blue Hills Trailside Museum** is owned by the DCR and managed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 1974. Trailside's mission is to provide enjoyable, affordable environmental education of the Blue Hills Reservation and beyond.

**Brookwood Farm** is located in Canton within the Blue Hills Reservation. This seventy acre former sheep farm with its red barn built in the late 1600's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 



## JFK & Macdonald Parks: Linked through the legacies of historic political leaders

*By Ranger Steven Gilchrist*

Now in my third year as a seasonal park ranger in the Division of Urban Parks, I have had the opportunity to visit other locations outside of my normal assignment. Usually, I work at the Teddy Ebersol's Red Sox Fields at Lederman Park. The Ebersol's field complex is a lively recreation area that is part of DCR's Esplanade and Charles River Reservation. Additionally, the fields are located next to one of DCR's Healthy Heart Trails. Two parks that I have visited are especially noteworthy because of the historical significance of the people who the parks are named after.

Macdonald Park in Medford, named after Torbert Hart Macdonald (1917 - 1976) who was a member of the U.S.

House of Representatives. Macdonald Park is part of DCR's Mystic River Reservation. The Reservation is home to the Mystic Lakes – one of the best protected streams in Massachusetts. In addition to Macdonald Park, the Mystic River Reservation includes Mary O'Malley Park in Chelsea, Draw Seven Park in Somerville, and Shannon Beach in Winchester.

Macdonald attended Harvard College where he was roommates with John Fitzgerald Kennedy. After graduating from Harvard in 1940, Macdonald served in the U.S. Navy as a PT boat commander in the southwest Pacific Ocean from 1942-1944. During his service in the Navy, Macdonald was awarded the Presidential Citation and the Purple Heart. After returning home from his combat tour, Macdonald attended Harvard University Law School where he earned his LL.B. degree in 1946.

In 1954 Macdonald was elected to the 84<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress as a U.S. Representative from

Massachusetts. Over the course of his congressional career, Macdonald served as the Democratic Majority Whip and also as the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

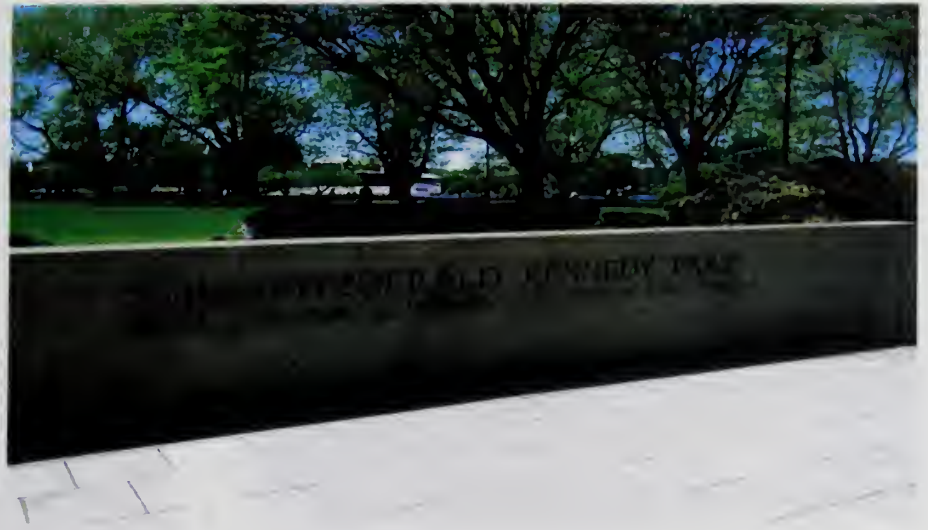
Macdonald Park was constructed on dredged land that was created after the construction of Route 93. The setting of the park is an attractive quality. At Macdonald Park visitors can enjoy scenic views of the Mystic River. There is open space for recreational activities such as biking, walking, and casual games.

Similarly to Torbert Macdonald, John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) attended Harvard College and also served in the U. S. Navy. Kennedy graduated from Harvard College in 1940, where he studied international affairs. Kennedy served as a Lieutenant in the Navy during World War II from 1941-1945. Kennedy had a distinguished career as a Naval Officer and he received several accolades including the Purple Heart. Although Kennedy died when he was only 46 years-old, he had a prolific political career. Kennedy served in the U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, and as the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States from 1961-1963.

Kennedy's legacy of character, courage, and service to his country endures through the several memorials and institutes named in his honor. DCR owns



a property named in Kennedy's honor. Located on Memorial Drive in Cambridge, John F. Kennedy Park is a unique place to visit. The park was dedicated on May 29, 1987 to the citizens of Massachusetts on behalf of the Metropolitan District Commission. The park's features include four entrances and a water fountain. Each entrance has two granite pillars that have quotes from JFK inscribed on them. The plants in the park bloom in May, the month in which President Kennedy was born. Quotations from President Kennedy also appear on the water fountain. One quote on the fountain reads: "The enduring qualities of Massachusetts – the common threads woven by Pilgrim and the Puritan, the fisherman and the farmer, the Yankee and the immigrant are an indelible part of my life, my convictions, my view of the past, and my hopes for the future."



I think a quote from Kennedy that appears on one of the granite entrance pillars at JFK Park highlights the importance of having an agency such as the DCR to protect parks, reservations, and natural resources in Massachusetts. The quote is from a speech that the late President gave at Amherst

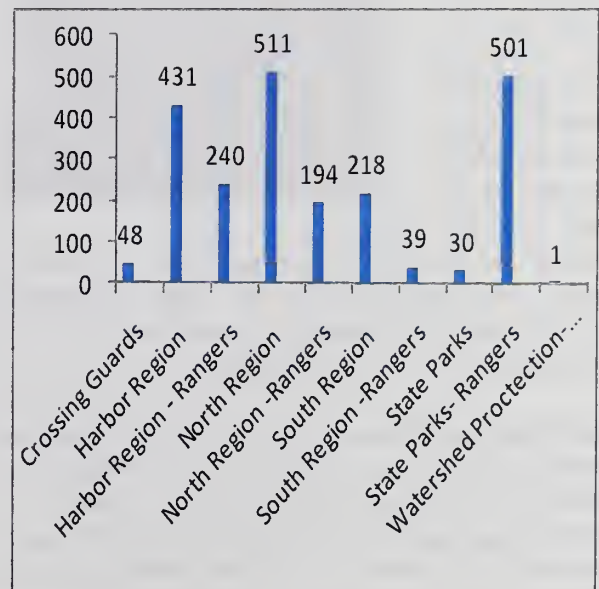
College on October 26, 1963, upon receiving an Honorary Degree from the college: "I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, ...an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well." ❧

## State House Base support to DCR

By Ranger John Garvey

DCR's only 24-hour Communication Center known as State House Base is staffed by DCR Park Rangers. This center serves as a communication link between the DCR, members of the public, and federal, state and municipal agencies. The communication moved through State House Base has been a key element in the management of significant events that have taken place on DCR properties. It also acts as a portal of communication among regional staff to help support their efforts in managing DCR facilities and is utilized 24-hours a day. Also, State House Base and the newly created MassDOT routinely communicate with each other regarding incidents that affect each agency's property. In this quarter, the State House Base has handled 2,213 calls relating to DCR parks and properties. ❧

November 2009 thru February 2010





## State House Ranger Detachment

*By Ranger Sean P Dowd*

A New Year is ushered in on Beacon Hill and on its heels, the start of a new decade in Massachusetts politics. It makes it an interesting job to be a DCR Ranger at the State House serving during the genesis of another in a long line of historic events, which seem to strike sparks in Massachusetts and reverberate far beyond the Commonwealth's shores and borders.

In addition to a steady turnout of demonstrators, other recent State House special events included the Governor's 'State of the State



Address' and a visit to the Governor from Israeli Minister of Finance Yuval Steinitz. This visit required special security coordination between the U.S. Department of State and DCR Rangers.


Republican State Senator Scott Brown won a special election bid in January to fill Senator Edward Kennedy's U.S. Senate seat, a fact that came as a surprise to some in this historically Democratic state. The events surrounding the election created a very busy time for the rangers from dealing with the

national and international press reporting on the election, to special events within the State House. In addition to normal employees and visitors, DCR Rangers screened record numbers of voters who came through the State House polling place for Beacon Hill residents on January 19th. Also, during this fiscally trying time in our economy, rangers were busy with sign waving demonstrators as State House staffers and elected officials went about conducting the people's business.

DCR Captain Stephen Owens credits DCR Ranger Larry Mower with catching a man attempting to illegally enter the State House with prohibited articles and ammunition in his possession days before the election. Larry was monitoring the x-ray machine when he spotted the items in the man's briefcase.



Because of Ranger Mower's attention to detail, and the assistance of fellow rangers, a potentially dangerous situation was averted. A tip of the 'Campaign Hat' is due to those rangers as we are, all too frequently, reminded of the need for vigilance by security, especially in government facilities.

Multiple other medical emergencies and disorderly visitors to the State House recently illustrate the importance of DCR Ranger training as well. Also, State House ADA Coordinator Carl Richardson of the Bureau of State Office Buildings has been conducting classes for DCR Rangers assigned to the State House Detachment. The program highlighted issues related to building access for physically challenged visitors and employees. The classes trained rangers in assisting persons with physical impairments appropriately. 



**"Farewell.....and a New Beginning"***By Captain Jen Stowe*

In February, Search and Rescue (SAR) responders from across the state met at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree to begin a new chapter for Search and Rescue in the state. The idea of bringing together representatives from all state agencies, as well as all civilian SAR elements was the brain child of Rick Toman, MSP civilian coordinator of SAR. Within the State Police, a change had taken place with Lt. Leverone now assuming the lead role for MSP resources, so Rick wanted to take the chance to introduce the Lt. to all of the teams and discuss the state of Search and Rescue response. It is with complete irony and regret that shortly after the announcement for this meeting, Rick received word that his own position as civilian SAR coordinator had been lost due to budget and fiscal constraints. Despite this news, Rick pushed for the meeting to still go on.

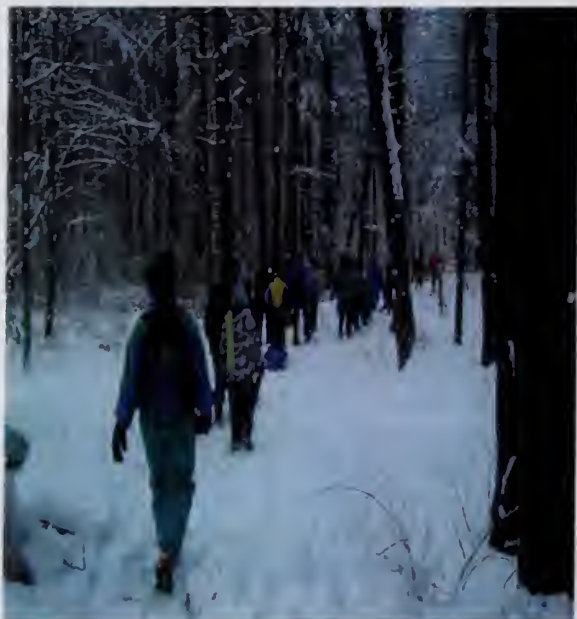
On the day of the SAR meeting, many people from across the state arrived early to honor Rick for all that he has done in advancing SAR in Massachusetts and beyond. In his time here in Massachusetts, Rick has worked tirelessly at improving relationships between agency and civilian search groups, coordinating training, maintaining a SAR responder registry, assisting with search management at lost person incidents, and, somewhere amongst all that, he found time to contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the

'Managing the Lost Person Incident' book that is used to train Search Managers around the country. Several DCR Rangers were able to complete their SAR management and tracking training through Rick's efforts. Although moving back to Vermont, Rick has vowed that he will always be available to any SAR professional who needs help. Rick will be missed and the DCR Rangers and other search staff would like to sincerely thank him for all of his passion and hard work that he has displayed.

The meeting continued with introductions from agency and civilian representatives. Open discussion determined that a major concern for people is training. Training has long been offered by multiple disciplines including DCR, but the issue at hand is to determine a way of possibly accrediting these trainings and having one central system of documenting a person or team's certifications. It was near the end of the discussion that Rick Toman stepped up to suggest that a committee be formed much like that of MASSARDF (Massachusetts Search and Rescue Dog Federation). The Federation consists of representatives from all the professional and Civilian K9 teams in Massachusetts that meet regularly throughout the year to establish standards, training, and certification testing. The formation of MASSARDF has given Massachusetts a resource for all communities to have access to K9 resources that are proven to be well trained, knowledgeable of SAR tactics, and readily accessible when the need arises. Thus, it was decided that a group of representatives from all SAR teams in the State would meet to discuss the future of search and rescue response in Massachusetts. This will mark one of the first times, other than training, that all interested parties are together to work towards establishing one cohesive avenue for SAR training and response. The new group will meet on March 12, 2010. Thanks again to Rick Toman for his determination to have this meeting happen and his initiatives in moving forward Massachusetts SAR response. ☞

## BEATING THE WINTER BLUES AT HAROLD PARKER STATE PARK

By Lt. Kathy Ward

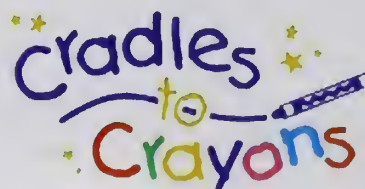


Throughout the winter, DCR staff has been partnering with the newly formed Harold Parker Friends Group to provide a hike at Harold Parker State Forest every Wednesday. The 'Beat the Winter Blues' hike series was designed to cover all of the trails at Harold Parker throughout the winter, and they have been so popular Regional Interpretive Coordinator Barbara Buls decided to continue the program right on through the summer recreation season. Seasonal Interpreter and Harold Parker Friends Group member Bob Anderson leads each hike and DCR Ranger Kathy Ward or DCR interpretive staff have been there to help out every step of the way.

There are regulars that come to the hikes including two home schooled children (ages 7 and 3) and their mom who have come to all the hikes, rain or shine. The group averages about 15 people and is a good mix of newcomers and those who have been to the park before. DCR's Harold Parker State Park is a great place to explore and the hikes showcase features like the old CCC camp's dynamite sheds, the soapstone

quarry, an old mill site, or one of the 11 ponds in the forest.

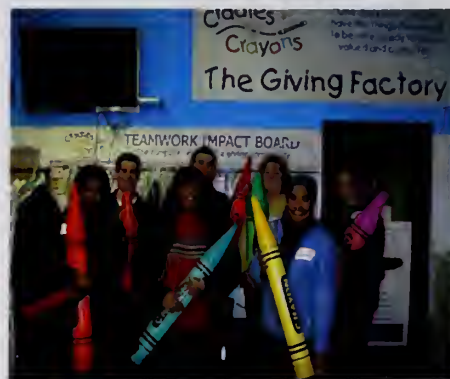
DCR Site Supervisor Steve David is happy the hikes have been received so well and has enjoyed hosting the gatherings this winter. It has been a big DCR team effort to pull off the weekly schedule, but the regularity of the hike has paid dividends in promoting the park and connecting the community with the great resource that is right in their backyard. ☪



### Bureau of Ranger Services Volunteer for the SERV Program

[www.mass.gov/serv](http://www.mass.gov/serv)

Founded in 2002, Cradles to Crayons (C2C) is an innovative nonprofit organization that equips homeless and in-need children with the basic essentials they need to feel safe, warm, valued, and ready to learn. While meeting the immediate needs of low-income children, C2C also sets a foundation for lasting change by providing meaningful, tangible volunteer opportunities to thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations each year.



For the second year, DCR staff from the Bureau of Ranger Services volunteered time to "C2C". Our "team" impacted 162 local children in need. This is an extremely gratifying experience and we encourage all our colleagues to volunteer time to this wonderful, worthwhile organization. The reward received is far greater than the time given. ☪



## Farewell, Colleagues and Friends

By Deputy Chief Chris Williams



With the DCR forced to make budget cuts, this fiscal year, that affected staffing, the Bureau of Ranger Services lost two of its valued personnel. Bill Stokinger, our Cultural Research Specialist, decided to take the retirement option after 25 years of dedicated service. Bill, within the DCR and formally the MDC, was the *go-to guy* for the research and protection of our cultural and historical resources. A learned and wise advocate for educating our visitors and protecting those resources, Bill's work was a valuable part of developing parks, creating exhibits, and providing materials, information, and artifacts for educational and interpretive programs. If you asked him, for example, when the Rangers first appeared in MDC, he could immediately provide you with a foot tall stack of files full of reports, articles, photos, and other memorabilia covering the whole story! Bill has headed off to Minnesota to enjoy his retirement.

Holly Bartlett, our Administrative Assistant, fell victim to the layoffs. Hired in June of 2007, Holly was the Bureau's Administrative Assistant. After 20+ years with the federal government in the Coast Guard, she was able to quickly pick up the administrative duties assigned to her. Whether it was keeping track of the Chief's calendar and phone calls or putting

together the newsletter, Holly cheerfully accepted whatever task that was assigned and even was a willing 'victim' for a multi-agency SAR exercise! After leaving the DCR, she was able to quickly land an Administrative Assistant position with the MA Department of Public Safety in Boston.



We wish both Bill and Holly all the best.....

## Hello, Claudia!

Claudia Gomez, the Bureau of Ranger Services new Administrative Assistant came to us from the DCR's Human Resource department. A six year DCR employee, Claudia has worked on the hiring process and the seasonal recalls in HR and also enjoyed getting out of the office to assist with the Envirothon. Claudia is quickly picking up those tasks assigned to her, from payroll to payments, and is about to enter the Bureau's seasonal hiring zone!



Come to 251 Causeway, stop in and say hi! ☺

## SEASONAL JOB OPENINGS

For the 2010 season, DCR Ranger Services has possible openings for:

- Rangers in the State Parks, Urban Parks, and Boston Harbor Islands
- Park Interpreter positions open state wide
- Shorebird Monitor, Island Managers, and Park interpreters at Waquoit Bay
- Ranger Supervisor in Boston Harbor Islands
- Kayak Ranger in Boston Harbor Islands

Watch for the actual job postings and application instructions by clicking on:

[www.mass.gov/dcr/employment](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/employment)



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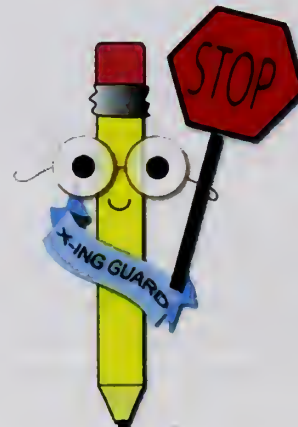
**DCR Crossing Guard Program**

*By Christine Kurker, Crossing Guard Supervisor*

The Bureau's Crossing Guard Program, within the Urban Parks, places Crossing Guards along our roadways to ensure safe passageway for school-aged pedestrians. Currently the program has 40 Crossing Guards covering 26 different locations throughout school zones in Boston and Greater-Boston. The DCR has crossings as far South as Quincy and as far North as Melrose.

All Crossing Guards new to the program recently participated in a 4-hour training course conducted by the Massachusetts State Police. Some topics included how to deal with angry drivers, drivers who do not stop at red lights, and drivers who speed. Also discussed was how to communicate with students who do not want you to cross them or those who do not use the crosswalk. The proper techniques of traffic control were also demonstrated and practiced.

On average, Crossing Guards work approximately 10 hours per week, have holidays and school vacations off, and do not work over the summer months. For more information on our program, please call 617-626-1421. ☺





## Interpretive Infusion Project

*Interpretation: "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource."*

For the past few months, several members of the Bureau of Ranger Services have initiated upgrading the way "interpretation" is used in the DCR. Bureau staff recognize that "interpretation" is often confused with "programming."

Interpretation is a communication-based management tool, while programming, like a Saturday morning children's activity, is only one method of interpretation. At the same time, we've noted that interpretation is happening in many unexpected places through the agency—in newsletters, public meetings, presentations, and outreach—yet still interpretive opportunities are overlooked.

To address these issues, our project is to infuse interpretation throughout the DCR in two ways: providing professional staff development to create an interpretive foundation and develop a statewide interpretive framework to help meet the DCR's goals.

After presenting ideas to the directors of State and Urban, several action items were identified and added to the project outline. Some of the planned and completed items are outlined below.

### Staff development- building an interpretive foundation

The seasonal handbook will include a new section called "Connecting the Visitor to the Resource" which gives examples of how interpretation can be used by *any* staff. An interpretive training video is being produced for seasonal staff. Certification in Interpretation training will be offered to seasonal staff which will lead to a Certified Interpretive Guide credential (from the National Association for Interpretation [NAI]) for each participant. A modified version of the course will be offered to other DCR staff in the fall, including rangers, managers and other non-ranger staff.

### Statewide Interpretive Framework

The interpretive framework defines a structure into which all interpretive activity in the agency fits and will also identify and prioritize interpretive opportunities. When new opportunities become available or when new needs arise, the framework will help guide decisions on how to proceed. Components of the framework will include identifying management objectives, establishing statewide themes, and conducting an inventory and audience analysis.

Work has begun on organizing a steering group made of representatives from around the agency. This summer, the group will meet and begin work on these components. In the end, Interpretation in the DCR will be not only making connections between the visitors and the resource but will also be about making meaningful connections between the agency and its objectives.

*By Tim Rayworth*

## Chief's Corner

*By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

This morning, the weather man announced that this weekend we'll be turning our clocks ahead. Seems a bit premature being it's only early March but nevertheless a sure sign spring is knocking at the door. And just like Puxatawney Phil, our parks will be shaking the snow and ice off and as sure as the robins will dot our lawns, our visitors will dot our trails, ball fields, and beaches.

It's the time of year when we roll out the ATV's, tune them up, check the tire pressure, fill them with fresh gas and take the first ride. It's also the time to go through our vehicles, throw away the empty coffee cups, water bottles and Dunkin Donut bags and sweep out winter's salt and sand. Drag out all those electrical devices such as flashlights, GPS units, cameras and whatever and replace all the batteries. Stretch out and re-stuff the rescue ropes, make sure your lifejacket is clean and serviceable, check all your mapping devices, examine fire extinguishers, refill your backpack pump, and service anything else you've got stashed in there. And don't ignore the truck itself: oil changes, tire pressure, windshield wipers should all be up to date and working.

We all know the rush spring and summer will bring and we're all well schooled to handle those situations. Experience and routine is our ally, but also potentially our adversary. Are we prepared for the unexpected emergencies that are sure to come our way? Major emergencies or disasters come in two forms, expected and unexpected, and our preparation should come in two forms,

professional and personal. Our professional preparation is that which prepares you to perform the services expected of you as they relate to emergencies. Is your truck maintained and equipped properly? Is your training up to date and are you comfortable performing those duties during an emergency? Working with our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) we will be looking to park rangers to inspect and record the effects of emergencies and transmit that information to the EOC. This information will create a common operational picture and increase our situational awareness to enable our management team to make informed and appropriate decisions as required.

The second part of preparation takes place at home. Have you prepared your family or other dependents to get by without you if an emergency arises and you are unable to be with them. Both MEMA and FEMA offer excellent information to help you be prepared at home. During an upcoming bureau meeting we'll present a review of this important information.

To wrap things up, spring is definitely coming and hurricane season is on the way, not to mention all those unforeseen emergencies we never seem to be able to avoid. We at the bureau will do all we can to prepare you for the routine recreational season about to commence, and those somewhat anticipated emergencies that rarely happen but can overwhelm us whenever they do arrive. We welcome and invite you to join us in that preparation.

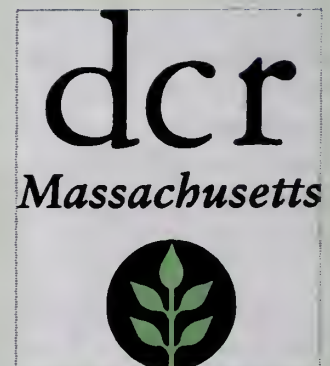
**We want to hear  
from you!!**

**Comments, thoughts and  
suggestions are always  
welcome, as are  
contributions. If you have  
something you'd like to  
share in this Newsletter,  
please send it in!**

Bureau of Ranger  
Services, Suite 800  
Attn: Claudia Gomez  
251 Causeway St.  
Boston, MA 02114

Or e-mail to:

[Claudia.gomez@state.ma.us](mailto:Claudia.gomez@state.ma.us)



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